Wednesday, February 10, 2010 | 4 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 64 | P10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

KEEP ON TRUCKIN' Sen. Richard Gordon and former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Fernando Bayani ride the "Transformer" truck on the first day of their electoral campaign in Carmona, Cavite, on Tuesday. ANGELA NICOLE

It's carnival time again

Voters warned of empty poll promises

CANDIDATES WAVED from motorcades, pressed hands with housewives and teenagers, and pleaded at Masses for God's blessings as the most extravagant political carnival in Philippine history rolled off yesterday.

The country's richest politician and the son of its democracy icon are locked in a tight battle to win the hearts of some 50 million voters, who will go to the polls on May 10 in the Philippines' first automated national elections.

At stake in the elections are the posts of president, vice president, 12 senate seats, more than 200 seats in the House of Representatives and over 17,000 local government positions.

The world's best house, Manny Pacquiao, and a clement's flamboyant widow, former first lady Imelda Marcos, are among the dizzying array of characters hoping to grab a share of power in one of Asia's most unruly democracies.

Some analysts warned that candidates' promises of change were likely to prove hollow.

"I don't think there will be any change in the idiosyncracies that define the Philippines," said Robert Broadfoot, managing director of the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy group.

Poverty, corruption and unemployment are the top issues in the campaign.

The two front-runners in opinion surveys, Senators Manuel Villar and Benigno Aquino III, are promising a clean government and both

(TY'S CARNIVAL) A4

CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN Evangelist and presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva, foreground, waves a Philippine flag to acknowledge thousands of supporters during his kick-off campaign at Rizal Park in Manila on Tuesday. A carnival atmosphere has descended on the nation as election season officially kicked off on Tuesday. ARIEL JAVIER

Noynoy: I will redistribute Luisita in 5 years

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza

SEN. BENIGNO "NOYNOY" Aquino III yesterday promised to redistribute the 6,453-hectare Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) within five years as provided by the new agrarian reform law.

In a press conference at his father's ancestral home in Concepcion, Tarlac, where the Liberal Party (LP) standard-bearer formally launched his candidacy, Aquino said that the hacienda controlled by the Cojuangco family of his late mother President Corazon Aquino was virtually bankrupt.

The presidential candidate did not give details of the debt but said that this was the reason the Cojuangcos had been hesitant to dump the sprawling sugar plantation on the farmers with its obligations still unpaid.

"I have said several times before that I have already talked with my family and that what we are after is the welfare of our

NOYNOY A10

Bro. Eddie opens quest at Luneta

By Dona Pazzibugan

CHRISTIAN EVANGELIST Edwardo "Brother Eddie" Villanueva kicked off his second quest for the presidency at Luneta Park in Manila with an unfurling of one of the biggest Philippine flags ever made.

Villanueva, head of the Jesus is Lord Church, led other Bangon Filipinas party candidates and about 5,000 supporters in unfurling the 350 x 92-meter flag.

First displayed in 2006, the 5.8-ton flag was created by businesswoman Grace Gopuco, a supporter of Bangon Filipinas.

BRO. EDDIE A9

Erap vows to retake Palace in Plaza Miranda

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

JOSEPH "ERAP" ESTRADA began last night what could be his ultimate attempt at vindication, vowing to take back the presidency that he said was "stolen" from him and the Filipino masses.

Speaking before an excited crowd of impoverished folk that just about filled Plaza Miranda in front of Quiapo Church, the standard-bearer of Pwersa ng Masang Filipino (PMP) said it was time to rid the country of corrupt officials and to protect

ERAP A3

Jamby goes to market to check on 'GG' prices

By Jerry E. Esplanada

A DAY AFTER SHE ADMITTED THAT SHE didn't know the price of "galunggong," the presidential poor man's fish, Sen. Ma. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal, a presidential candidate, said that she would include some vegetables and seaside in her campaign rallies.

JAMBY A9

GMA no-show at Gibo's proclamation rally

By Fe Zamora

ANTIPOLO CITY—EVEN THE mention of the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo seemed taboo at the proclamation rally in Antipolo City of the administration's standard-bearer, former Defense Secretary Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr.

The presidential candidate of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition spoke for about 45 minutes at the rally officially kicking off the election campaign season, but he mentioned Ms Arroyo's name only once.

An attempt by party mate and senatorial candidate Sherwin Bello to elicit cheers for the President by shouting "Mabuhay si Presidente Arroyo" failed dismally to rouse the crowd of Teodoro supporters.

Ms Arroyo did not attend the rally.

GMA NO-SHOW A6

Transformer team kicks off in Cavite

By Cathy Yamsuan and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SEN. RICHARD GORDON YESterday turned the steps of his great-grandfather at the start of his campaign for president in the May 10 election, hoping to replicate his ancestor's heroism in the war against Spain in 1896.

Gordon and his running mate Bayani Fernando took a three-hour trip around Cavite in a 10-

TRANSFORMER A14

Villar starts '90-day journey to a better RP' in Laguna

By Nikko Dizon and Michael Lim Ubac

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—NO. SEN. Manuel Villar did not swim in a sea of garbage, as his popular campaign jingle goes, to kick off what he and his running mate Sen. Loren Legarda called "the 90-day journey to a better Philippines."

Golfing themselves a "united front versus poverty," Villar, Legarda and senatorial candidates of the Nacionalista Party (NP) kicked off the formal election campaign with a proclamation rally in Calamba, where national hero Jose Rizal was born.

The rally at the Bunga plaza was to have started at 3:30 p.m. It began at 6 p.m., with GMA 7's Raymund Gutierrez and Valerie Concepcion as program emcees, but the plaza as well as the narrow streets were filled with orange-clad NP supporters and bystanders hours earlier.

An estimated 3,000 supporters, with some coming all the way from Los Baños City, Villar's hometown, were present.

At press time, the NP senatorial candidates were delivering individual speeches to a crowd of thousands.

Outrage, Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. was turned apart from Sta pro-

VILLAR A13

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

2 P.M.	
Manila	31° 23°
Baguio	28° 17°
Tuguegarao	34° 21°
Legazpi	31° 23°
Tacloban	31° 24°
Cebu	31° 24°
Iloilo	31° 24°
Zamboanga	31° 24°
Davao	31° 24°
Cagayan de Oro	31° 24°

2-P	5 1
	28 17
	16 11
SUERTRES	9 7 6
	6 4 6
	9 0 6
SIX DIGIT	4 9 7 2 5 8
6/42 LUZ-MIN-MIN	7 16 25 27 33 38
	P3,308,655.60
SUPER LOTTO 6/49	4 7 13 33 37 48
	P174,707,251.20

Health workers tortured–CHR

By Alcuin Papa

THE HEAD OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS has accused the military of subjecting to "psychological torture" the 43 health workers who were arrested in Morong, Rizal, last Saturday on suspicion that they were communists.

"They are continuously handcuffed and blindfolded, they are not allowed to sleep, they are not allowed to [heed] themselves, even when they use the bathroom, someone else is there to take off their underwear," said Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Leila de Lima.

Blindfolding is a form of mental or psychological torture under the Anti-Torture Act of Republic Act 9745, said De Lima who led a CHR team in interviewing the detainees at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, on Monday.

Right to counsel denied

She said the health workers were denied the right to counsel despite their repeated demands for a lawyer during interrogation.

Dr. Ernesto E. Rivera, secretary general of the Health Alliance for Democracy (HAD) nongovernment organization, who was with De Lima, also confirmed the allegations of torture.

She said the detainees told them the military has been "torturing" them since their arrest last Saturday in the Morong resort owned by Dr. Melecia Velmonte, including a training seminar on public health. The military alleged they were members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) planning destabilization campaigns.

"Based on accounts of the detainees, the [Armed Forces] subjected them to various forms of torture and mental harassment," said Rivera.

They were handcuffed and blindfolded for more than 20 hours and were also denied food and bathroom privileges, she said.

Rivera said the detainees were confined in dark cells and forced to listen to sounds of gunfire. They were not allowed to speak to each other and were slapped around repeatedly at night. The detainees were also forced to admit that they were NPA members.

Sans arms and writes

"One of the detained men already had some arms and wrists from being tied down for so long," added Rivera.

She said that Dr. Alex Montes, whom the military has accused of being a member of a special NPA unit [sic] assigned to kill retired general Jaime Pelaprian, was electrocuted and repeatedly hit on the chest while being questioned.

The pair was nonbearable that other arrested hours of taking the bread punishment the 62-year-old Rivera was willing to admit to anything, she said.

Rivera said that family members, whom they were finally allowed to see this afternoon, last Monday, were accosted by a certain Col. Arnulfo Belandel who called them "paid actors who are out really to exhaust of the detained."

The workers' families and the Community Medicine Development Foundation, the organizers of the seminar, have filed a habeas corpus petition with the Supreme Court, asking the high court to compel the military to bring the detainees before a judge or court, and to protect them against illegal punishment.

Abuse of discretion and authority

Named respondents in the petition were Armed Forces Chief Gen. Victor Ibrado, Philippine National Police Chief Director General Jesus Versoza, Philippine Army Commander Lt. Gen. Delfin Bangit, Army 2nd Infantry Division chief Gen. Jorge Segovia, 202nd Infantry Brigade Commander Col. Aurelio Baladad, and Rizal PNP chief Supt. Marvin Balangbang.

At the Senate, Sen. Pia Cayetano, chair of the committee on social justice, yesterday filed a resolution seeking a Senate inquiry into the "abuse of discretion and authority" of the military and police who arrested the health workers. With Harmon Kierdacheva, Nikko Dizon and Christine Avendaño

GMA signs budget, but...

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SIGNED finally approved the P1.54 trillion national budget for 2010, but did not yield to the lawmakers' realignment of P64 billion from debt payment to pet projects.

Ms Arroyo signed General Appropriations Act or Republic Act 9970 Monday night, the eve of the kick-off of the campaign for national candidates to the May elections.

While it is 8 percent or P1.13 billion higher than the P1.415-trillion 2009 budget, this year's outlay was geared toward "fiscal stimulus spending "fed on a moderate level," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said.

"More investments... in infrastructure, education and social services but more on a moderate level based on the capability of the department to spend these amounts," he told reporters in an e-mail interview.

Until the passage Monday night, the government had been operating on 2009 reenacted budget.

Compel JBC to submit list, SC asked

IN A MOVE THAT COULD BEING to a head the issue of whether or not President Macapagal-Arroyo can appoint the next Chief Justice despite an election ban on appointments, a lawyer yesterday asked the Supreme Court to compel the Judicial and Bar Council to submit its list of nominees to the President.

Antonio De Castro, a lecturer and bar reviewer at the University of the Philippines and the Ateneo De Manila University, asked for a writ of mandamus that would direct the JBC to submit its list of nominees to his lawyer when Chief Justice Reynato Puno retires on May 17.

"The JBC acts with grave abuse of discretion in delivering submission of the list of nominees to the President under the pretext that it has to carefully weigh and consider the constitutional issue of whether the incumbent President may appoint the Chief Justice during the election ban," the 13-page petition read.

The JBC had announced that it would start the nomination process for Puno's successor but would defer its decision on when and to whom it will submit the list of nominees because of the constitutional ban on presidential appointments 90 days before the Presidential's term ends on June 30.

Ms Arroyo's allies believe the position of Chief Justice is not covered by this ban.

The JBC would be remiss in its duty if it would defer or refuse to send the list of nominees to the President, said De Castro, adding that "this situation clearly constitutes usurpation of the judicial or judiciary function of the Supreme Court."

Norman Bordadora

GMA takes media on bus tour thru 'seamless' traffic

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday rode a bus with the Philippine Army corps for a tour of a major road network that runs through the Bonifacio Logistics Hub (BLH).

In the one-and-a-half hour bus ride from Cabanatuan, Laguna through the Southern Luzon Expressway (SLEX) to Sucat, on to Quezon City, Ms Arroyo fielded questions and marveled at the "seamless traffic" and construction boom after 6 years.

"That's the way to modernize the economy," she said of the urban highway while the bus was traversing SLEX.

The SLEX is one of five "super regions" established by Ms Arroyo to turn the country into a major logistics and services hub in the Asia Pacific. It comprises Central Luzon, Metro Manila, the Calabarzon area (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) and half of Region IV-B.

After speaking at the Rizal Elementary School in Cabanatuan City, Ms Arroyo boarded the green bus, said "Hello" to reporters, and sat at Seat No. 19.

The bus made a brief stop at the construction site of a project in Calamba that would link SLEX with the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) that leads to Ibo, Tanauan, Batangas.

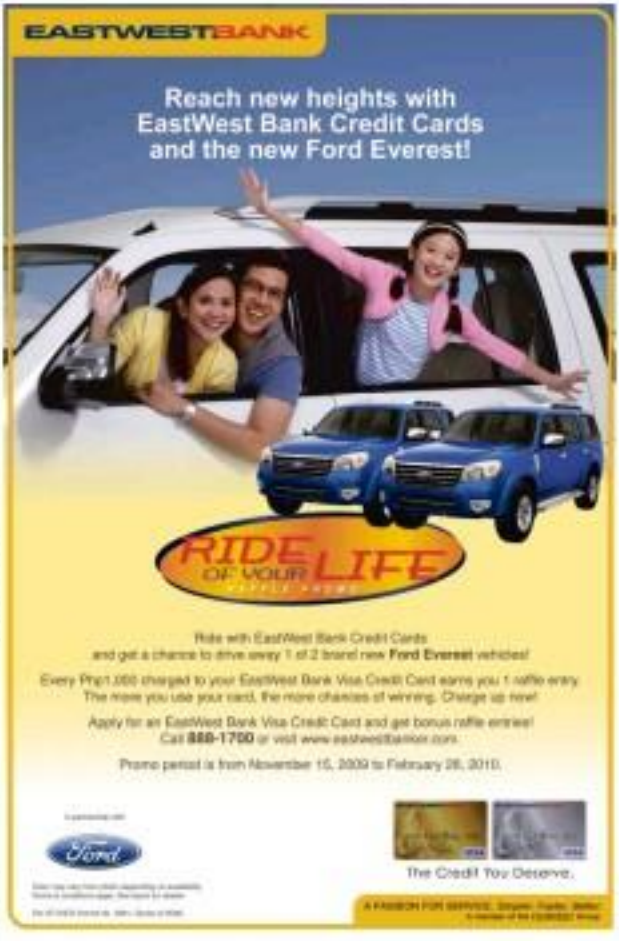
From there, the bus took off for Manila.

After the Subic-Clark bus ended the expressway via the C-5 exit, the entire "SLEX to C-5 is seamless."

She sounded displeased when she found out one part the proposed construction site of a flyover across Commonwealth Avenue, meaning that the bridge should have been built there.

The tour ended at a construction site of an underpass in Novaliches, with the bus getting stuck in a dirt road, and Ms Arroyo walking to the bustling area a few meters away.

The underpass is part of a large project to connect SLEX with the North Luzon Expressway through C-5 and provide motorists an alternate route to Cebu.



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Corrections

IN THE FEB. 8 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Star of 45 health workers go to ICU"—misspelled the first name of the owner of a rest house in Rizal where health workers were recently arrested by the military and police. The owner is Dr. Melecia—not Melberta.—Wilnonette Sarmiento

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IN THE SAME ISSUE, another front-page story—"Ping somewhere in Asia, says NPA"—misstated that the arrest order for Sen. Panfilo Lacson was 16 pages long. The arrest order was only one page long.

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IN THE SAME ISSUE, another front-page story—"Survey boss counters analysis in debate"—misspelled the first name of the presidential candidate of Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. KBL's presidential candidate is Imelda—not Vilma.—Agencies

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IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Business article on Page B7—"Domestic passenger air traffic grew 25.3% in '09, CAO says"—misstated that Asian Spirit is a sister company of Philippine Airlines. Air Philippines is the affiliate of PAL. Asian Spirit has been renamed Zest Airways, Inc.

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IN THE FEB. 9 ISSUE, an article on the Second Front Page—"Ilonot trial judge nominated for CA seat"—inadvertently omitted the first name of the judge fronting the Ilonot-Cubilo murder case. The judge's name is Myra Garcia-Fernandez.

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Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in articles to the Big Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PCI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makapili Street, Makati City, fax this 897-57-20/24, e-mail address: philnet@inquirer.net.ph.

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14 more Ampatuans charged in massacre

By Norman Bordadora and Julie M. Aurelio

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) yesterday filed multiple murder charges in a Quezon City court against 14 more members of the Ampatuan clan, including patriarch Andal Ampatuan Sr., amid 102 others in connection with the Maguindanao massacre of Nov. 23, 2009.

Ampatuan Sr. and the others will then be joining in the charge sheet Andal Ampatuan Jr. who was the first family member charged in the killing of 57 people till a bodyguard in Maguindanao.

Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said the DOJ would ask the Quezon City court to order the transfer of the accused from their places of detention in Maguindanao to the Metropolitan Camp in Taguig City.

Change of venue

She said the DOJ would also seek the transfer of the trial venue from Camp Crame to Bicutan.

QC Regional Trial Court Branch 221 staff, meanwhile, said that the 196 respondents, including the 14 Ampatuans, were to be arraigned for only 41 counts of murder as the DOJ had yet to indict the remaining 16 counts.

Ampatuan Jr., however, has been charged with 56 counts of murder, one for each of the 57 victims, because one victim has not been identified.

Aside from Ampatuan Jr., the other clan members charged were Zaldy Ampatuan, Ahmad Ampatuan, Anwar Ampatuan, Bajal Ampatuan, Jimmy Ampatuan, Kuyot Ampatuan, Sukarno Ampatuan, Matna Ampatuan, Saudi Ampatuan Jr., Sr. Ampatuan, Ipi Ampatuan, Hanie Ampatuan and Akmad Ampatuan.

Ampatuan Jr. was the governor of Maguindanao while his son Zaldy was governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. They were close allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The other Ampatuans also held government positions in provinces of the ARMM.

They are charged with planning and carrying out the killing of members of the rival Mangudadatu clan who were on their way to Shariff Aguak to file the certificate of candidacy of Buluan Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu for governor of Maguindanao, a move that would have pitted him against Andal Jr.

Mangudadatu's wife Genalin, two sisters and 32 media men were killed along with 30 journalists, lawyers, supporters and innocent motorists who happened to be on the highway when more than 100 armed men allegedly led by Andal Jr. stopped the convoy.

'Kill them all'

"If the Mangudadatus pass by, kill them all, even the children, don't leave anyone alive," Andal Jr. was quoted by a witness as allegedly saying in Filipino during a meeting in the palatial Shariff Aguak home on the eve of the massacre.

The witness, Sonny Ebdalin, told interrogators he was a member of Andal Jr.'s private army.

DOJ prosecutors led by Senior State Prosecutor Benjamin Bahinang also found probable cause to charge Maguindanao police officers, including then provincial director Chief Supt. Sukarno Tavil Jr. for the crime for their alleged involvement or participation or failure to stop it, as well as the alleged participation of some of them in the massacre.

The other officers charged were Supt. Nasser Ali T. Dumpa, Insp. Michael Ray Maraorong, Senior Insp. Abdulgapor Abad, Insp. Sajid Ismael Ampatuan, Supt. Abusama Mamda Magsud, Supt. Rahmania Kamarang and Supt. Abdulhamid U. Bulto, also.

Cops knew of abduction before killings, says witness

By Hudee Ramos

EIGHT ARMED POLICE DID NOT ACT on news reports several persons had been abducted in the province hours before they were killed by armed men allegedly led by Andal Ampatuan Jr., a police officer told a court yesterday.

At the hearing of the rebellion case against members of the Ampatuan clan, Supt. Roberto Rubio said he first learned of the abduction when a radio report at around 11 a.m. on Nov. 23.

Rubio was the first witness presented by state prosecutors at the hearing on the petition of the Ampatuans for determination of probable cause in the rebellion case said to prevent their cousins Datumanong Ampatuan Jr. and Sajid Islam Ampatuan from running for governor and vice governor, respectively, in Maguindanao in the May 10 elections.

His testimony was supposed to show the Ampatuans plotted to overthrow the government to prevent the arrest of clan members tagged in the massacre of 57 people in Ampatuan, Maguindanao.

When he sought out the source of the information, Rubio said police officials Badia said they denied such as to their concerned.

"They responded that there was none and that the reports were rather exaggerated," he said.

Badia, chief investigator of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police office, and regional police operations center personnel in Camp SK Pendatun in Parang town also denied receiving any reports on the incident.

Marcoses to get mansion back

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS ORDERED the return of the Cantahong mansion, the government seized from the Enrile family.

In a resolution, the antigraft court's Fourth Division granted the motion of Rose Nono Perlas, the Marcoses' "frontman" Mateo A. noting, the return of the huge home in Cagayan.

The court also ordered the cancellation of the notice on the property's title stating that it was involved in pending litigation.

The Cantahong mansion was one of the Marcoses properties the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) wanted seized by the Department of Justice for supervision.

The other properties under DOJ supervision are the Coconut Palace in Tagaytay City, Bamboo House, Malacañang of the North and the Cacimao Beach House.

In a motion filed in 1997, Marcos asked the court to order the government to immediately cease from further interfering with and from taking ownership over the subject property and to return possession and control to the registered owners.

Marcos and his sisters Imee Marcos and Irene Marcos-Araneta are the registered owners of the mansion.

The Sandiganbayan maintained the mansion was not included in the graft case the PCGG had filed against the family, citing a 1999 certification from the court stating that the Cantahong mansion "is not among those listed in the Letter Annex Supplement A or included in the List of Frozen Cubao Funded by the OPEC41 and duly registered with this Court."

Mass for Evelio Javier

A MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE 24TH death anniversary of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier will be held at the chapel of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati City, on Feb. 11 at noon.

Briton appeals for missing son

A BRITISH NATIONAL AND HIS FILIPINO wife yesterday sought the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo in finding their 17-year-old son who has been missing since Jan. 22.

In a press conference in Camp Crame, Quezon City, David Woodhead said his son Mary Woodhead left their home in Legaspi Village, Makati City, and has not been seen since.

Woodhead, who owns a Makati-based company that supplies fiber optics to local telecommunications firms, said they were stumped by their son's disappearance.

He said he had no reason to suspect business rivals or rogue at his son by someone for his disappearance.

Ping to surface when GMA's gone, says pal

FUGITIVE SEN. PANFILO LACSON will come out only when a new and "fairer" administration comes into office after June 30, according to a close friend who last year said spoke to the senator in Hong Kong in mid-January.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Lacson told him he was determined he would not be put behind bars under the Arroyo administration.

"I will never allow myself to be jailed. I had nothing to do with the massacre," Lacson told the source and named friends who are base in Hong Kong key assets.

A Manila judge last week ordered the arrest of Lacson after he was charged with the November 2009 murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

The meeting of the source and the senator occurred long before Lacson released statement last week saying he had left the country to escape an "evil conspiracy" allegedly led by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"He will come back under a fairer administration," said the source, adding that the senator was supporting the candidacy of Liberal Party standard bearer Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

"Recovering him, he still really want to run," the source said.

Yesterday, members of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) began putting up photos of Lacson with the words "Wanted" and "double murder case" on the streets of Manila so they urged the authorities to step up the manhunt for the senator.

"The arrest of Senator Lacson should be made credible and soon. I do not believe that public has anything to do with this, it is simply justice catching up with him at last," said VACC founding chair and president Ernie Ainersen, adding that the group will be putting up the "Wanted" Lacson posters across the country.

Meanwhile, Corina Sioson, the daughter of the slain publicist yesterday challenged the presidential candidates to make Lacson accountable for his actions.

"Tell us: tell us/show us who ordered our father and why he was killed. If his murder involves a political figure, I hope politics will not be a reason for justice not to be served," Corina said in a letter read for her by her lawyers.

She singled out deposed President Joseph Estrada, whom she said has been falsely claiming to be close to the Dacer family and yet failed to help when their father was abducted.

"If you really are close to our father, give us the information that will give justice for his death," she said. Efren Dacer, Fito to friends and PeDacenter.

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RUN UNITED FOR WELLNESS

For the benefit of and

It's carnival time again

From page A1

ent for the Philippines after nine years of President Macapagal-Arroyo's incumbency rife dotted with coup plots and corruption allegations.

With dozens of people already dead in the run-up to the polls—including 57 civilians and at least 30 of their media workers gunned down in a massacre in Maguindanao province last November—political violence has again emerged as a main concern in Asbol 2010 people were killed during the last elections in 2007.

Aquino, who rode into contention on a wave of sympathy following the death of his mother, Corazon, dominated last one Catalano Pangilinan, Villar by a least in the latest surveys.

Aquino's earlier huge lead in surveys vanished almost as quickly as it was gained as Villar, a congressman (popularly dismissed, caught up here with a ill-personal support in the Joint Police Asia survey following an advertising spending spree.

Spice from Estrada

Adding spice to the race is former President Joseph Estrada's attempt at political resurrection, after he was deposed halfway through his first term in 2001 and later convicted of corruption. Mr. Arroyo pardoned Estrada earlier.

Estrada is running third in the surveys and, although an outside chance, some analysts said the former movie star could yet achieve his whole of redemption.

"It's going to be difficult for him, but he has 30% percent name recognition across the country—it depends on how diligently he runs his campaign," said Ramil Mislares, a political lecturer at De La Salle University in Manila.

The ruling coalition's choice to succeed Mr. Arroyo, former Defense Secretary Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., is running a distant fourth with just 13 percent support in the latest survey.

However Mislares, also professor of polling from Polac Asia, said picking a winner three months from the election was impossible. And even Teodoro had a chance if the coalition's formidable machinery could kick into action.

Comebacking Imelda

Per on international analysts, indeed still focus on Pacquiao, the seven-time world champion boxer who is running for a congressional seat in Sarangani province in Mindanao.

Pacquiao is counting on his fame alone to get him elected. He failed in a similar bid in the 2007 congressional elections and Mislares said could again be dismissed as fanciful political ploy.

"It's going to be difficult for him. He is up against someone who has been in local politics for a long time," Mislares said.

After working a seat in the House of Representatives in Manila's Ellanoc. the 80-year-old wife of Ferdinand Marcos, who is running in the crucial congressional district of Ilocos Norte for his first time running for her son, Ferdinand Jr.

Lentre tradition

Delay have set up clockcounts in a nationwide countdown set to electronic polls. They said operations were running to dozens nearly 300 operations centers on the pretrial of political tasks.

Yesterday, candidates check hands with vendors, farmworkers, fishermen and teenagers as they hopped from town to town, just a few hours' power from Manila, ending markets, parks and churches on the last of 90 days of campaigning.

Some candidates heard Mass at churches, with one worshipping her rally into a prayer gathering, reinspecting the Lenten tradition of Jesus Christ washing the feet of his disciples to illustrate his desire to be a public servant.

Personalities vs platforms

Flaws set numbers are hoping for a smooth transition, not weighing fears of possible tech-

nical and administrative problems from the country's first automated polls.

Analysts are looking for more details on the candidates' platforms, particularly economic policies, which are absent from a barrage of political ads on TV and radio since the start of the race.

Historically, popular personalities drawn political clout, the media, sports and show business dominate the elections, but some analysts are seeing more positive changes.

"In this election, I see a 50-50 ratio on personalities and platforms—it's easy as the politicians more better up among the leading presidential candidates," said Ramon Casipde, executive director of Ateneo Center for Political and Electoral Reforms.

Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters

Erap vows to retake Palace in Plaza Miranda

From page A1

the coming electoral exercise from those who would steal it again.

"We are all here to take back the power that was stolen from the Filipino nation," he told a crowd estimated at more than 5,000.

Estrada called on Filipinos to support as well his running mate, Makati Mayor Jejomar "Jojo" Binay, in an effort to prevent a similar arrangement of having a vice president from another party, as what happened when he and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo emerged No. 1 and No. 2 in the 1998 polls.

"I can sleep well if he is my vice president," Estrada said of Binay.

He said Binay was the best mayor in Asia because Makati residents enjoyed excellent health care and public education.

"Today, with my running mate, the next vice president of the Philippines, Jojo Binay ... and the country chair of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino ... together, we join you, my people, in restoring our government and restore the power of the Filipino people," he said.

Cast of characters

Estrada's new catch phrase is "Sipag mo, Erap mo, sapat na 'yan" (Your hard work, Erap's concern."

Together with Binay, the PMP-installed Senate proclaimed the PMP-nominated candidates led by Senator Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan and her eldest son, Senator Pia Tampisa Jingoy Estrada.

The other candidates, who joined them on stage, were Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Lito Lapid, Ramon Cayetano, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Juan Ponce Enrile; Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay; former Solicitor Gen. Pio Marcelo and former Court of Appeals Justice Regalado Maambong.

Former Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who is detained at Camp Crame on coup d'etat charges, was represented by his daughter.

Present besides Estrada and the six who introduced him were Senate Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, who is again seeking the mayorship of Manila, and PMP candidates.

Only a few months back, Atienza was one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's staunchest defenders in the government.

Estrada's wife, former Sen. Luisa Ejercito, was on hand even in front of the stage.

Actors Jaime Garchitorena, Eddie Garcia and Cesar Montano lent their presence.

Undefeated

Estrada spent Sunday before the start of the campaign period with a quiet lunch with his extended family and close friends at his residence in No. 1 Polk Street in Greenhills.

The Sunday lunch is a family ritual, according to chief campaigner Ernesto Rhodes, who

RISING Presidential candidate Joseph Estrada tells supporters at his proclamation rally in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila, that he would block what he says was to be his short presidency. At right is Estrada's running mate, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. ARCHIVE PHOTO

said it did not matter if it wins. how upset the candidate's schedule, usually cutting short his first, under provincial rallies because he had to return home for the get-together the day after.

On that early afternoon of Feb. 7, Estrada was unobtrusively—remarkable of the spirited discussion on the May elections as the big round table in the dining room.

If the presidential election were to rank-and-file, he usually came across as confident, as he always has known the questions—and answers.

The stakes were clear: Win there, loose that.

"That's right," he told the legends in an interview. "From movie, showbiz vice president to presidency. I remained undefeated."

Estrada said that unlike the other presidential contenders, he had the advantage of experience. Indeed, he was President for two and a half years before he was ousted in 2001.

Then-Vice President Edda Villanueva, only he knows how to actually run a grueling presidential campaign.

Stealing

The future of impressive probably explains why the 72-year-old Estrada could afford to

RAPT AUDIENCE Former President Joseph Estrada (center) raises the hands of his team, from left, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, JV Ejercito, Sen. Jose Ponce Enrile, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Sir Tessa Jinggoy de Venecia, Ejercito in "Jun" Lozada and Bataan Plaza during their proclamation rally at Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila. ARCHIVE PHOTO

wonders from election losses and enjoy quiet time with family and friends, as he did on Sunday.

The man was focused on his plate, which was heaped with his favorite dishes—kare-kare, adobo, pinakbet, sugpo, and lechon.

Occasionally he joined the conversation at the table, where our trained friends like Ananda Figuras Bryan, we made a joke.

Talk turned to a text joke making the rounds, saying his opponents Benigno Aquino III, Manuel Villar and Gilbert Teodoro Jr. could get married not to each other but to actress.

In the case of Mr. Arroyo, the text joke said: "Malo na buyong matematika: (There's nothing more confusing than math)."

Estrada apparently edited the joke, which also featured Arroyo saying: "Kailangan ko pa mag-aaral (I need to study again)."

But he never made a comment to taxpayer money during his brief stay in Malacañang, and the man who was convicted of plunder and quickly pardoned by Mr. Arroyo.

That's why, he said, he was flipping behind the idea of "Nat to in terms of campaign spending.

'Lowest spender'

Estrada laughed out loud when reminded by the worthiest of the

'Bionic' knees

Estrada was not stunned that some people doubted whether he aging body could survive another national campaign. Especially after he had two knee replacements.

"If you want, let's go jogging tomorrow to outfit me," he challenged the reporter.

"My knees are now bionic. I had knee replacement. (There's) nano titanium. Some of you don't believe it, you go to Cardinal Santos (Medical Center). Just three months ago, I had my general checkup there. It's perfect," he said.

Estrada once described his bionic knees for the presidency as the last act in his storied showbiz and political careers.

The action is waiting to see how it goes.

GMA no-show at Gibo's proclamation rally

From page A1

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was the highest ranking Malacañang official who showed up to support Teodoro and his vice presidential candidate, Edu Manzano.

Other Lakas-Kampi-CMD stalwarts, including Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Raul Gonzalez, were also around to try and bolster Teodoro's campaign.

Mostly Arroyo-Aquino congressmen and local officials led by the Pimentel's eldest son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, also showed up to express their backing for Teodoro and Manzano.

Teodoro's only Nikki and other political allies, Bulacan Governor Josefina dela Cruz and Mayor Jonjon Mendoza, were part of the show of force.

Antipolo is the beginning

A large tarpaulin bearing the image of Teodoro, Manzano and senatorial candidates Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Lito Lapid, Ramon Cayetano, Panfilo Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile and Jinggoy Estrada was also on the stage.

POWER TEAM Presidential candidate Gibo Teodoro (center) and running mate Edu Manzano hoist fists with senatorial candidates of Lakas-Kampi-CMD during their proclamation rally in Antipolo City. Running for senator are, from left, Sen. Bong Revilla, Raul Gonzalez, Rey Langit, Ramon Cayetano, Gibo dela Cruz and Lito Lapid. RAFFY MAYUGA

Gibo Teodoro will in the next presidential. And it will start here in Antipolo," Puno told the cheering crowd. "Solving (Administrator) Antipolo Solving (Administrator) Gibo!"

Mayor Danilo Leviste said the city's more than 133,000 voters would go for "Team Gibo."

Ex-Congressman Prospero Pichay, campaign manager for the Lakas standard-bearer, said the presence and support of the local government officials "cannot the victory of Teodoro and Manzano.

In Mindanao, the election race became the exclusive of Gibo and Edu are stars," Pichay said.

Bridge of unity

Teodoro's platform of governance is centered on education, primary healthcare, countryside infrastructure projects, food security and a sustainable food subsidy program.

Teodoro pledged to be "the bridge that will unite" the nation. He said his campaign would focus on his experience and the performance of his party.

Teodoro vowed to go to towns and places he hadn't visited before.

"Aside from continuing my campaign visits to explain my platform of government to our countrymen, I will continue to go to the provinces and small towns we haven't visited yet," Teodoro said, when asked what campaign strategy he would adopt to bolster his popularity rating.

Campaign strategy

In a statement, Teodoro said he believed his rating among presidential candidates would go up as the 90-day campaign progresses and when local politicians of the ruling party visit their campaign in Ilocos.

Over 70 percent of local government officials nationwide are Lakas-Kampi-CMD members who are seeking reelection, the statement said.

Teodoro dismissed predictions that surveys pointing him a distant fourth, saying he wasn't "gunkie to lose every time in the surveys but only decisively on election day itself."

SOFT LAUNCH: A late bet-start for presidential candidate Nicanor Perlas who chose to start his campaign at Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, another to students at the Ateneo Political Foll

No hype or hoopla for 'JC'

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Jerome Aning
in Manila

ONE OF THE LEAST KNOWN presidential candidates started his campaign in Olongapo City during rainy Friday that he might need to do also in his bid for the presidency—yes).

There was no hype nor hoopla when Councilor John Carlos "JC" de los Reyes, standard-bearer of the Ang Kapatiran Party (AKP), opened his campaign with a Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in Olongapo.

After praying, he walked with a small group of party mates, supporters and some of his nominated candidates to a market nearby where he chose to launch, instead of parades and entertainment, himself as a presidential candidate.

De los Reyes, a member of the Gordon political clan and the only Kapatiran candidate who won in the 2007 elections as a councilor in Olongapo, is running against his cousin, Sen. Richard Gordon, and eight other candidates.

Accompanying De los Reyes as the start of his campaign was his fiancée with Zhenia Valenzuela, who believes her husband could take insurance he has "a pure heart" and "clean conscience."

"After he's been talking to people, he brings their problems home to us, his family, and shares us what it's like for them so we can understand. He wants to change things for the better," she said.

"People are that's young. I know him more than anyone. He's full of passion and he is very determined. And who but God knows about what is right or wrong for this country?" she added.

Donated property

The group also visited Jubilee Village, a low-cost housing community in Olongapo that rose from property donated by Del De los Reyes' family in hours more than 60 poor families.

A tentacle-living there told Inquirer.com the villagers would vote for De los Reyes.

"For even if we are not living here, we still still root for him. If people know him, they would, too," she said.

De los Reyes moved around the city with a convoy of only a few vehicles. In some areas, like the villages of Barrio Barretto and New Cabalan, he went out of his vehicle unattended by bodyguards. He has none.

Ang Kapatiran's nominated candidates who accompanied him were retired Air Force Col. Hector Barcenas and former Agusan Governor Democrito Barnaldo Mercado.

"People are surprised that we don't have security detail even when going to squatter areas. But [all candidates] must not be afraid of the people. They are the ones we are going to serve," said Barcenas, one of the 11 original members of the defunct Reform the Armed Forces Movement in 1986.

"Nothing has changed in this country. There is no hope. We must be able to change this. What I'm praying for is that we become a nation of true Christians because that [will] eliminate all the vile things that we are seeing now[,]" he said.

Tarnate said he was running his senatorial under AKP because of De los Reyes' influence.

"He can stir his faith with his political life. And what he says [in the political arena] is anchored on his Christian[ity]—that a commitment among politicians," he said.

De los Reyes' running mate, lawyer Dante "Jun" Chipeco, was unable to join the start of the campaign in Olongapo as he was meeting with family members in Colombia, Laguna. Chipeco is expected to join the campaign when it reaches Metro Manila.

Off to a good start

A top official of AKP said the campaign was off to a good start.

"We had a busy day and we hope the warm welcome given to JC will be repeated in the next days/weeks," said Eric Manalang, AKP president and chair, in a phone interview from Olongapo.

Many people, Manalang said, wished De los Reyes "good luck" instead of telling him "I'll pray for you."

De los Reyes, a theology graduate, said he felt bad about being told "I'll pray for you" because he took it to mean that people think he'll lose.

"I feel bad because it's as if my party's causes are unattainable and hopeless and all they can do is pray for me," he said.

Creative campaign materials

Manalang said AKP's youth chapter prepared creative campaign materials for De los Reyes' sorties. These include masks mounted on stalls that call on people to reject evil ways like political dynasties, pornography, drug addiction, pork barrel and gambling.

Manalang said De los Reyes' group went on a house-to-house campaign in Olongapo City distributing leaflets and pins.

In the afternoon, the group proceeded to the Subic Bay Freeport commercial area to meet with workers.

De los Reyes' party has scheduled a proclamation rally on Feb. 16 in Pasay to Quezon City.

SAPO HOPE: Ang Kapatiran standard-bearer John Carlos "JC" de los Reyes, (4th) offers presidential run in Olongapo City. He is accompanied, with a prayer, by (from left) Mae Mae, his mother, with a small band of supporters and his senatorial candidates on the public market, parks, and later went on a house-to-house campaign.

Perlas goes back to Ateneo on Day 1 of campaign

By DJ Yap

LOS BAÑOS

This time from independent presidential candidate Nicanor Perlas started his campaign yesterday with a visit to the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Quezon City.

Perlas talked to students at the Ateneo Political Fair, a three-day event sponsored by the Ateneo Student Council, and answered questions on how to balance conflicts of interest in government as well as whom he would vote for if he were not running for president. He said he would choose from the other independents.

"This is a soft launch of my campaign," said Perlas, who is running on an environmentalist and reformist platform. The actual campaign kickoff will be on Feb. 13 in Cebu City.

Perlas, an Ateneo alumnus, said he made a point to begin his campaign at Ateneo to encourage students to "assess, compare, study and discern whom they will vote for."

"Young people are least influenced by traditional politics and, thus, are more open to the ideas of new politics," he said in a statement.

Perlas said he chose Cebu as the venue for his major campaign launch to emphasize the importance of a less Manila-centric approach to governing the country.

"We want to send the signal that if this country will progress in the future, it will [require] equitable development across all regions," he said, adding that 70 percent of Filipinos living in poverty are found in the countryside.

"Most of the conflict in the world and even some from poverty. At the same time, one source of urban problems is that everyone is migrating to the city," he said.

On Friday, the Perlas campaign will hold a bike run for clean elections at Quezon City Memorial Circle in Quezon City, in what his handlers describe as "an environmentally friendly and unconventional" style of campaigning.

From page A1

"I have test students because of the vegetables they sell," Madrigal said yesterday on the first day of the presidential campaign. "I go to a lot of nurseries selling organic products, like the one in Katipunan (Quezon City). In our small farm in Tagaytay, we grow vegetables."

He said, "I may be a regular but I have no prejudice against most natives."

Madrigal drew snickers at the [illegible] presidential debate at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, on Monday when she said

a kilo of galunggong (round scad) cost only P60. A kilo of galunggong in Metro Manila costs about P120.

Quiapo church

"I really would not know [the price of galunggong]," she said in a real message yesterday before she sought divine intervention at the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila, as she embarked on a three-month "mini-Visayas" campaign for the presidency.

Accompanied by French husband Hubert Jean Claude Walsh and members of what she called her "home for effective team," Madrigal attended the 10 a.m. Mass at the Catholic church on Plaza Miranda.

Madrigal, who is determined to pull off a one-woman show in her presidential bid, said she "felt a need to be blessed by the Quiapo parish [who said] they'll be praying for me."

Scapular

"Then there's the woman selling rosaries and scapulars who gave me a scapular for free and also wished me good luck. Her positive means a lot to me," she said.

Madrigal, clad in her signature mom-gone-Manic knee-length dress and flip-flops, walked the entire length of busy Carriedo Street, shaking hands with shoppers and street vendors.

Later in an interview, Madrigal said she had been "having the most wonderful time and praying for clean elections."

"I believe that any little sacrifice will reach God directly," she said.

Madrigal said she was "making a promise (vow), hoping a miracle will happen. That there's going to be clean elections. And no matter what the administration does, cheating won't happen."

She plans to continue having "in the next two weeks" and may even ask the canvas to join her in fasting for good elections.

Decent campaign

Madrigal is running without a vice presidential and senatorial slate to "prove that I am not a traditional presidential aspirant, but a candidate of the people."

"This would allow all liberal-minded candidates and people to unite under a shared and primitive progressive vision and platform of governance based on principled politics," she said.

Madrigal added that she wanted to go on a solo presidential campaign so as not to be indebted to any political party or big businessmen who back other candidates in the May elections.

She said her family had "left me enough to run a decent campaign."

From Quiapo, Madrigal proceeded to Caloocan City where she distributed food packs to some 1,700 fire victims in Barangay 74 once Samson Road.

"We'll campaign in Metro Manila first," she said.

She also plans to "meet with students who have to know doesn't an alternative (presidential candidate)."

Jamby goes to market to check on 'GG' prices

From page A1

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Bro. Eddie opens quest at Luneta

From page A1

Gopuso's group, PC Tenny Manalotos International, attempted on Sept. 18, 2006, to attach the record for the world's biggest flag. The group failed because strong winds tore apart the giant Philippine flag as it was being unfurled in Aklan, Western Visayas.

Washing of feet

"We want to revive genuine patriotism and nationalism. We need new politics with moral leadership for a new, better Philippines," Villanueva later told reporters.

During the rally, Villanueva also performed the "washing of the feet" on his running mate Perfecto "Tony Jr." and seven senatorial candidates.

Christ once washed the feet of his disciples to demonstrate how it is to be a servant leader, according to the Bible.

Zero corruption

Unlike in the 2004 presidential campaign when he ran without a slate, Villanueva has a running mate and seven senatorial candidates—Zaldy Ampatuan, lawyer Reynaldo Princesa, lawyer Ramonchito Ocampo, broadcaster journalists Kata Inocencio and Alan Tinay, Zaldy Abinoja, lawyer Reynaldo Princesa and lawyer Ramonchito Ocampo.

Villanueva said his slate would run on the platform of "six years of zero corruption."

He vows those to start the official campaign at Luneta Park are symbolic of the "hope for a new Philippines" since the national park is regarded as "Kilometer Zero," he said.

In the country all distances from Manila starts as reference to the kilometer marker in the flagpole located at Rizal Monument where national hero Jose Rizal was shot by a firing squad in 1896.

Political discrimination

Villanueva told reporters that the political rally to the park was organized mainly because of "political discrimination" under the Arroyo administration.

Barangay Pilipinas organizers were preparing for a proclamation rally now "shorn of lawful fault" on the Luneta grounds to accommodate the expected massive turnout of supporters.

But the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), an agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), turned down Barangay Pilipinas' request, saying the park should not be used for "politically-related rallies."

"In line with our thrust in maintaining serenity and the safety of the public, we regret to inform you we don't allow politically related rallies here in Luneta Park," executive Director Salome Rubio wrote Barangay Pilipinas on Feb. 5.

Patriotic rally

But ironically when Barangay Pilipinas made another request for the use of Luneta Park on the official start of the national campaign period...this time saying it would be for a "patriotic rally" where they would unfurl the biggest Philippine flag made on record, the NPDC agreed.

Organizers said they were only able to salvage three snapshots of the design of their on Saturday.

"We would have wanted to hold a proclamation rally on Feb. 13 but it was canceled. The [Luneta Park] staff said 'We're not angry because it might become a political rallying" Villanueva told reporters.

"One of course it's a political gathering. Why do they have to prevent the use of Luneta Park? Any time political rallies, that's my case. All Luneta Park and disprove what the [pre-election] surveys say[,]" he added.

Villanueva has been at the tail end of production surveys in a number of presidential candidates.

Tenny said the group would question the constitutionality of Luneta Park's policy against political rallies. "[Luneta Park] was used before as political rallies. We feel very strongly this is a political discrimination, so our party can see show its strength in winning the elections," he said.

Princess said the group would like to meet the representatives before a trial court to stop the NPDC policy.

"We'll see the constitutionality of a state-compelling interest against freedom of speech and assembly," he said.

Princess said that a political rally was held at Luneta Park in 2004, and that former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led an anti-Marcos rally there to launch her civil disobedience campaign after the 2004 may elections.

CODE'S ARMY: Evangelist and presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva and running mate Perfecto "Tony Boy" Ramirez show victory sign launching their campaign at Rizal Park in Manila. At the back are some of Bangon Pilipinas' senatorial candidates—broadcast journalists Kata Inocencio and Alan Tinay, Zaldy Ampatuan, lawyer Reynaldo Princesa, lawyer Ramonchito Ocampo, Bde Mikaboltz and Israel Vergines.

Across the NATION

Rich bets shower gifts on villagers

Flat irons, electric fans make CamSur town showcase of party's huge resources

THE POLITICAL PARTY OF THE CURRENT PRESIdential race's richest candidate showed villagers in a small town in Camarines Sur what it's like to have resources.

Gifts from the Nacionalista Party (NP) rained down on residents of Caramoan, a tourist town, as the presidential candidate Manuel Villar's party launched a route for its candidates for each province.

Villagers received food packs, house wares, slippers, school bags, small appliances and mattresses from NP candidates in the province.

Elsewhere, candidates for local positions signed peace covenants, mobilized volunteers and started posting campaign materials where they shouldn't be.

No loose raffle

Pechanec's Pola, candidate for vice governor and running mate of Governor Jun Gino Luis Raymund Alfelor? Villa beat to the 10 o'clock, had donned the colors of their standard who received some 4,000 food packs and 2,400 slippers and school bags and 1,200 scholarship grants for elementary and high school students during a visit last Saturday.

A press statement sent to the Inquirer Monday by the Mabulo-Madrid Educational Center—the humanitarian and public relations arm of the Gemilares but promoted government—said kindergarten, eleven flat irons, electric fans and mattresses were given away in the raffle draw.

Pola, the former budget officer of Camsur, represented Villa-Ilocos in the villages Poblacion, Canjulo and Bihal in Caramoan.

Raining freebies

In a phone interview, Joventino Pola, mayoral candidate of the Liberal Party (LP) in Caramoan, confirmed there were lots of freebies given to villagers.

He called it premature campaigning, however, as the start of campaign for local candidates is March 26 yet.

In Lipa City, Batangas, the red, orange and green-blind the Lipa Cathedral on Sunday when Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles led the signing of a peace covenant by candidates.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, former senator Ralph Recto, Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto, Vice Gov. Mark Leviste, former governor Armando Sandoval, Edwin Ermita, a candidate for vice governor, and Rep. Teddy Casiño took part in the covenant.

Flood of tarpaulin

In Laguna, local and national candidates continued to flood towns with tarpaulin running their faces and names.

Residents of the university town of Los Baños, Laguna, gave varied reactions, including amusement, to the campaign materials.

A candidate for vice governor put out tarpaulin with the word "vice" in small letters and the word "governor" in big, bold, red letters.

A candidate for vice mayor put in his tarpaulin the phrase "at your service, your humble mayor," with the words "vice" and "mayor" in bold letters.

Amusing

Beverly Lagmanville, 21, a college student, said she found the materials amusing.

Another student, Sheila May Abrazo, 22, said at least voters would know this early the choices of the candidates.

Elvira Bonilo, 20, a young professional, said while candidates try to pass off their campaigns as mere announcements, "it was obvious what they were doing."

"It gives them with money an advantage," she said.

Wasted money

Many other Los Baños residents, however, don't find anything amusing with the proliferation of the disguised campaign materials.

Gus Pascua, a 64-year-old scientist with studies, said money spent on the materials could have gone a long way in helping the poor.

In Naga City, campaign rallies of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay who is running for vice president, were the first cases in post election protests.

Not far behind on protest of presidential candidate Richard Gordon and his running mate Edcel Peñaranda out of party for groups.

Naga, however, virtually turned yellow as members of the Liberal Party party of presidential candidate Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, field rallies officials all over. Arnica Cuthbert Salita, Jacob Escandor Jr., Marrich Bella Lesaba and Charlie Calcitap-Palmerbach, Inquirer Southern Luzon

GENUINE REPRESENTATION ALL Filipino Sampaguita (top left), Pakistani Iqra (top right) and Ateneo Senators (bottom left) remain as candidates Senior Ocampo does take on President Macapagal-Arroyo for the congressional seat in Pampanga's second district.

3 Kapampangan fight biggest battle of their lives vs GMA

By Tarra Quismundo
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—TWO INDEpendent candidates contesting the unprecedented bid of President Macapagal-Arroyo to represent Pampanga's second congressional district said they are not intimidated by her stature and power.

Lawyer Jay Pidlaoan Serrano and Filipinas Sampaguita are looking forward to beating Mrs. Arroyo, the first Philippine president to seek a lower position after completing her term.

"I'll run," Serrano, 35, said.

"I'll be an alternative choice," said 48-year-old Sampaguita.

In separate interviews, they anticipate violence on election day and a monopoly on political power," he said.

A "few narrow corridors" in town Sampaguita herself.

"When University of the Philippines professors and business colonials Randy David decided not to run, I (could) for it because I felt it was an obligation to help Pampanga," she said.

Both Serrano and Sampaguita are rallying behind the endorsed bid of Gov. Ed dit Pineda.

LP candidate

But an Liberal Party chair in the province, Pineda is supporting the LP candidate in the district, Juliet Singson, who the governor describes to be a "consistent crusader for good governance."

Serrano, a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, is an electronics and communications engineer. His father is a civil engineer and his mother was a public school teacher.

Sampaguita holds masters degrees in public administration and management and works as instructor and administrative officer of the Philippine State College of Aeronautics in Basa Air Base, Porac, Pampanga.

Real Kapampangan

Unlike the others, who was not born and reared in Pampanga, Serrano said he grew up in Sapang Bukaw in Porac.

Sampaguita, who says she is related to the Dayrit clan of the City of San Fernando, says Serrano's mother and she are grandchildren of former Sen. Edmundo Cea. She said she is a registered voter of Porac.

Sampaguita is a neophyte in politics while Serrano ran and lost an senate of three in 2004.

Sampaguita, for her account, is a "simple mother, a dutiful wife with a wealth of public service experience."

Both, however, claim not to endorse Mrs Arroyo in their public engagements. Sampaguita calls this "not dwelling on the negative."

As a voter in Congress, Sampaguita thinks that Filipinos "do not need to see issues as we need to confront the issues that are here absolutely."

"I intend (to) speak with whoever gets elected president to bring physical improvements and other assistance to the district in terms of better and additional infrastructure, facilities and scholarships," she said in a one-page document she explains her platform.

Electronics master

Sampaguita speaks in Pastor law legislative agenda on reforms in the judiciary, education, energy, civil service and labor reforms.

In Serrano's assessment, the Philippines lacks laws that regulate elections to violated violators.

He wants to install a link between the Bureau of Internal Revenue and telecommunication companies to monitor sales and use funds and prevent consumers from making mobile phones load credits.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

08 Febrero 2010

PAUNAWA MULA SA DOH – FDA
Blg. 2010 - 001

BABALA SA PUBLIKO TUNGKOL SA FOOD SUPPLEMENTS:

"ANG MGA FOOD SUPPLEMENTS AY HINDI NAKAGAGAMOT NG ANUMANG SAKIT."

Noong ika-28 ng Marso 2008, nagpalabas ang Food and Drug Administration (dating Bureau of Food and Drugs) ng Paunawa Mula sa DOH-BFAD Blg. 2008-004 ukol sa mga "food supplements" sa pamilihan at mga patalastas o mga patutoo tungkol sa mga diumano'y epektong medikal ng mga ito.

Muli ay pinapaalala at binabalaan ang publiko na ang mga "food supplements" ay nagbibigay lamang ng karagdagang nutrisyon at walang pakikinabangan medikal o sa madaling salita, **ANG MGA ITO AY HINDI NAKAGAGAMOT.** Walang saysay na siyantipikong pag-aaral o katibayan na makapagpapatunay na ang mga ito ay nakapagpapagaling ng isang partikular na sakit o karamdaman.

Ang pag-inom o paggamit ng "food supplements" bilang kapalit ng regular na medikasyon para sa isang karamdaman ay hindi tamang gawi at maaaring makapagdulot pa ng mas malubhang komplikasyon o karamdaman.

Ang paalalang ito ay inilathala upang pangalagaan ang kaligtasan at kalagtasan ng publiko.

NAZARITA T. TACANDONG, RPh, MPA
Acting Director IV

NEWSBRIEFS

■ PAMPANGA

Fire destroys trees

A FIRE (BFP) Angat destroyed P1-million worth of government reforestation project on Saturday night, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

The fire razed hundreds of forest trees planted in 60 hectares on the upper slopes of Mt. Arayat covering the villages of San Vicente in Magalang, Pampanga, said Ricardo Calderon, DENR director in Central Luzon.

In that area, 26 hectares were contracted to the group of Peter Sangson under the Pamanga-Mount Arayat Reforestation Project. The remaining 15 hectares were part of the bite-packed Social Forestry Project for upland farmers, Calderon said on Sunday.

DENR officials have yet to determine how the fire started but residents suspect it might have been to charcoal-making, which the DENR has tried to stop for years now.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

■ CAVITE

19 houses razed

NINETEEN houses were destroyed in two fires in Rosario City on Friday and Sunday.

Fire Officer 2 Marlon B. Cortes, of the Rosario City Bureau of Fire Protection, said no one was injured in the first fire. One person, a certain Jerwin Bautista, was injured in the second fire.

Aniket K. Dalisay, Inquirer Visayas

Live wire kills 2

TWO persons were killed by a live electric wire of the Cagayan Electric Corporation (Cagelco) that touched the branches of a tree on Sunday in Roxas City.

Police identified the victims as Andy Garcia, 24, and Ferdie Sanchez, 22, from Barangay Cambidadia Tapaz. Police said Garcia was on a tree that fell to cut a branch of the tree when it accidentally touched the Cagelco live wire.

Sanchez, who was passing by, tried to help but was also electrocuted. The two died at the Tapaz District Hospital.

Aniket Dalisay, Inquirer Visayas

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

In Subic, a top asset is threatened

By Robert Garcaya
Olongapo City

A VIEW of the polluted river that runs through Olongapo City and empties into Subic Bay

PASSING THROUGH THE main gate of the Subic Bay Freeport and leaving Olongapo City behind, the first thing that a visitor notices, aside from the changed surroundings, is the stench from Kalalake River that runs under the bridge.

Thousands of workers, tourists and investors have to pass through this bridge every day but the condition of the river has not drawn as much attention as it should have received.

The river, named by American soldiers who once occupied the Subic Naval Base as "S--t River," joins another Olongapo waterway and empties into Subic Bay. In its current state, the river is symptomatic of the dangers and problems stemming from decades of neglect and environmental decline in the area.

In the two-day water summit held at the Freeport last month, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Armand Arreza asked communities surrounding the Freeport and their leaders to heed the warning signs.

"Subic Bay may cease to serve as the economic lifeblood of the Freeport if the serious pollution affecting the water quality in the bay are left unchecked," he warned.

"If the degradation continues, we would lose our beautiful beaches, fishermen would have less fish to catch, the bay would become murky and silted, and ultimately, the Subic Bay Freeport would become less attractive to investors and tourists."

Arreza said it is the "moral duty" of every resident in the Subic Bay area to help save this vital body of water to keep it a sustainable resource.

The SBMA and the summit was convened to discuss the sustainability of Subic Bay, considered the Freeport's top asset.

In October last year, Olongapo City Councilor Edwin Blanco authored a resolution asking local governments surrounding the Freeport, the SBMA, nongovernment, organizations and environmental groups to form a Subic Watershed Council to lead projects to respond to improve the condition of the bay.

"While it is true that domestic wastes from the surrounding area contribute to the degradation of Subic Bay, establishments in the Freeport have much to be blamed for this problem," he said.

Pinto said very few buildings have adequate sewage treatment facility (STF) and the existing STFs dump their wastes straight into the bay.

"In other places, there is a huge lapse where you can see the quality of output from the STF before it is directed to the rivers and bay," he said.

Arreza said the water of Subic Bay, which forms part of the commercial waters of Olongapo City and nearby areas in Zambales and Bataan, is now considered a "threatened resource" due to patches of pollution caused by the disposal of partially treated sewage, surface inflows from drainages in land use and inadequate assessment of industrial wastes.

"Despite the growing industrialization in the [freeport], the major culprit in the observed decline of water quality at this point is more from domestic households in the surrounding local communities," Arreza said, citing studies made in 2006 during the preparation of the Freeport's Integrated Coastal Management Plan (ICMP).

Amorfina de la Llana-Isreal, SBMA ecology center manager, echoed this assessment.

The factors straining the bay include reduction of forest cover, inefficient use of fertilizer and pesticides, burning of grasslands, proliferation of fish cages and increasing sewage and pollution load from domestic wastes produced by communities around the bay the ICMP studies showed.

These also showed that "pressures from commercial and industrial activities in nearby communities, as well as rapid urbanization of surrounding communities" have increased solid waste generation.

Arreza said the limited sewer and wastewater treatment facilities and lack of waste disposal facilities in some communities have worsened the situation.

American soldiers, who once occupied Subic Naval Base, called Kalalake River 'S--t River'

ELECTION BANNERS FAST!
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PRICE NEGOTIABLE

ANNOUCEMENT
This is for ticket sales, the NEMIS BATCH '86 ALUMNI ASSN, INC. wishes to inform the public of the postponement of its "RAFFLE FOR A CAUSE" originally set on February 14, 2010 to May 2, 2010. Please keep your tickets as there will be featured on the May 2, 2010 draw. Please bear with us. - The Officers of NEMIS BATCH '86 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

ROMULO
ROMULO MABANTA BUENAVENTURA SAYOC & DE LOS ANGELES
Attorneys at Law

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On behalf of our client, **PHILIPPINE CARPET MANUFACTURING CORPORATION ("PHILCARPET")**, please be informed that:

The company by the name **AUTO CARPETS, INC.**, owned and managed by **RAFAEL VILLARREAL**, a former Senior Vice-President for Car Carpet division of PHILCARPET, is not a subsidiary or an affiliate of PHILCARPET.

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Any statement or representation contrary to the above is false and misleading.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

09 February 2010

FDA ADVISORY
No. 2010 - 002

SUBJECT: Jiaoli Miraculuous Cream (Jiaoli); Jiaoli Huichusu Special Cut Genuine (Jiaoli Huichusu); and Jiaoli 2+1 7 days Clearing Facial Spots Suit (Jiaoli) Cosmetic Products

The public is hereby warned of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) finding that the cosmetic products bearing the following names:

a. Jiaoli Miraculuous Cream (Jiaoli)
b. Jiaoli Huichusu Special Cut Genuine (Jiaoli Huichusu)
c. Jiaoli 2+1 7 days Clearing Facial Spots Suit (Jiaoli),

are not authorized to be sold in the market. Worse, samples of the above products when analyzed were found to contain Mercury and exceeding the allowable limit of 1 ppm. Cosmetic products containing such impurities/contaminants that are way beyond the allowable limit clearly pose imminent danger or injury to the consuming public.

All establishments or outlets are warned against selling and/or dispensing the aforementioned products and anyone found selling the said products will be penalized severely. On the other hand, the public are enjoined to bring to the attention of the FDA (Tel. No. 8078278) any information that may lead to the apprehension of persons dealing with the subject products.

This advisory is being issued in the interest of protecting public health and safety.

Nazarita T. Tacandong
NAZARITA T. TACANDONG, RPh, MPA
Acting Director IV

Shame campaign planned vs bets hurting trees

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ENFORCEMENTERS in Central Luzon were disappointed and angry on the first day of the election campaign period as supporters of candidates nailed or tied posters on trees along the Manila North Road (Maharlika Highway) and local roads.

The Save Our Trees Coalition (SOTC) on Tuesday began ordering volunteers for next week's "bunkusan," a drive to remove campaign materials.

The SOTC is the same group that successfully lobbied the Department of Public Works and Highways to stop the cutting of almost 8,000 trees in Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac for a road-widening project.

"If it is necessary, especially for those candidates who habitually violate the law or defy our appeals, we will shame them by splashing their photos like they are wanted criminals," SOTC spokesperson Cecile Ticzon said.

Trees get hurt, too

She said like human beings, trees can get hurt, scarred, hardened or killed if they are not properly cared for.

Lawyer Jessie Londonio, Commission on Elections supervisor in Pampanga, told candidates are violating the Fair Election Practices Act and its implementing rules and regulations when they nail, tie or hang campaign materials on trees or other objects included from the common poster area.

Section 22 of the resolution said: "Common poster area does not refer to a post, a pole, the wall of a building or an existing public structure that is in screw on, but a structure ... that is temporarily set up by the candidates or political parties for the exclusive purpose of displaying their campaign posters."

Citizens' vigilance

The SOTC has also asked residents to use their mobile phone cameras to take photographs of violators among candidates and send or deliver them to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It is also partnering with the Pampanga-based group Ating Planitikan (No Plastic) for more creative ways of preserving the trees.

Five groups of visual artists in the province are again visiting shops down to work for painting boxers on tree trunks to remind candidates and their supporters that trees should be loved and not be hurt.

The Kalinangan Teleseryepen, Gemar Pernandino, Pampangan Artists' Chamber, Guyo Chamber of the Arts and Jubilay helped save the 8,000 trees in July last year by painting human figures on them. Romelle Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

'If it is necessary, especially for those candidates who habitually violate the law or defy our appeals, we will shame them by splashing their photos like they are wanted criminals ...'

CLEANUP DRIVE

Davao City gone-nonsense workers remove posters of presidential candidate Manuel Villar and his running mate Loren Legarda at the start of a drive to enforce rules against illegally placed campaign materials in the city.

Doctors say victims of lung cancer are getting younger

BAGUIO CITY—LUNG CANCER VICTIMS are getting younger because of smoking and noticeably lifestyles early in their lives, health officials have said.

Dr. Donna Tabora, head of the city epidemiology and surveillance unit, said smoking at an early age is a key reason people are getting lung cancer early.

She said the cold weather in this city could be one of the reasons for early smoking.

She said, however, that teenagers are lured into smoking mainly because of peer pressure.

"In our study we found out that [some] smokers were high school students who started smoking because of peer pressure," she said.

She said smokers who are diagnosed with lung cancer are usually in their 40s and 50s.

"We have early smokers because cigarettes are very accessible. We have the cheapest cigarettes and yet we have the most expensive medicines. There is a lack of implementation of laws regulating or banning smoking," Tabora said.

She said the city health office recorded 55 patients diagnosed with lung cancer last year, and most of the patients were smokers. Of this number, 17 eventually died of the disease.

Quoting a World Health Organization report, a Department of Health administrative order said tobacco is the leading cause of death, killing 5.4 million people a year, from lung cancer and heart disease.

"Smoking in the Philippines is among the highest in the world today. In 2008, the country ranked ninth highest in the world for adult male smokers, according to the World Lung Foundation and the American Cancer Society. In the same year, the country ranked 34th highest in the world for female adult smokers," the DOH said.

It said that even among the world's youth, the Philippines ranks high among countries with the most tobacco users with Filipino girls occupying second place and Filipino boys in the fourth slot in 2003. Rosette Cobase, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Comelec to ban camera phones in voting precincts

By Jaop Cabezas
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Eastern Visayas will ban cellular phones with camera from inside voting precincts in the region on Election Day.

"The main reason why bringing cellular phones with cameras [into the precinct] is prohibited is to preserve the sanctity of our votes. Or not allowing it to others," said Atty. Jose Nick Mirabeles, Comelec acting regional director.

This prohibition would make the practice of vote buying more difficult, especially since a voter could now only take a picture of his ballot to prove he passed to be presented to vote-buyers, said Mirabeles at a seminar on automated elections organized by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas-Eastern Visayas chapter in this city.

The prohibition was just one of the measures that Comelec has instituted to ensure credible elections, he said.

"Of course, we cannot really totally do away with vote-buying during elections. If a person will sell his votes, he can do it. It is just a matter of conscience," Mirabeles said.

The Comelec would also prohibit digital cameras and similar gadgets inside voting precincts as provided by Comelec Resolution No. 8739, he added.

Mirabeles also said the Comelec might implement measures to achieve "clean, peaceful and honest elections" but this could be achieved only through the "vigilance of the citizenry."

NEW TECHNOLOGY A week-old voter during mock elections in Baguio City using the Comelec's voting machines.

Comelec tells Bulacan gov to leave post

By Kristine L. Alave

FIFTEEN LOCAL POLLS LESS THAN three months away, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has ordered Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza to vacate his office and allow ex-Gov. Roberto M. Pagdanganan to take over.

In a 19-page resolution released Monday, the Comelec en banc issued a writ of execution upholding the December 2009 ruling of its Second Division declaring Pagdanganan the rightful winner of the 2007 local race.

The resolution also denied Mendoza's motion for reconsideration for lack of merit and said he should "cease and desist from performing the functions of governor."

The poll body also ordered the Department of Interior and Local Government and the provincial Comelec supervisor to enforce the resolution as soon as possible.

"Considering the proximity of the end of the term of the office involved, this resolution is declared immediately executory," the order said.

The Comelec declared Pagdanganan, a former Bulacan governor, the victor, after a recount showed that Pagdanganan garnered a total of 342,205 votes against Mendoza's 337,874 votes, or a "winning margin" of 4,331 votes.

The decision of the gubernatorial contest was triggered by Pagdanganan's election protest.

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Congratulations to
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Nokia 5800: Shirley Rasula, James Que, Consuelo A. Hannibal, Anna Uy, Joanne Q. Solonga
Walkman MP3 Player: Ma. Editha R. Valencia, Francisco Lirazan, Maribel Galvez, Amanda Tolong, Joan Dadao, Mady Gohing Sy, Maria Anna Irene Sar, Cherry Dranzan, Mari Bryan Hunnicutt, Mildred Berba
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Canon
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Canon Imageclass Laser Multi-Function Printers
Packed with an array of features and new technologies, the new imageCLASS line is ideal for small offices as well as workgroups in large organizations
This new printers have been developed to address the needs of businesses searching for a Multi-Function Printer (MFP) that will help them enhance productivity without prohibitive costs. These MFPs are also eco-friendly with features that reduce energy consumption.
Canon's latest range of MFPs leverages the new colour imageCLASS printer line-MF8450C series offer rich networking features and an innovative 3.5-inch TFT full colour LCD screen with a tilttable operation panel for easy viewing. In addition, Canon has four monochrome imageCLASS models: MF4690, MF4890, MF4570dn and MF4880dn, which have been designed to maximize business savings without compromising on efficiency and productivity.
Canon's new imageCLASS laser multi-function printers offer the convenience of all-in-one printers, supported by the assurance of quality and reliability of devices that customers depend on. These MFPs are equipped with updated functions and technology that satisfy the printing needs of rising entrepreneurs and smaller businesses, thereby enabling such operations to excel and increase productivity without a cost burden.
Advanced digital document distribution features
The built-in SEND function on the new colour laser MDs (i-SENSYS or MF8450C) offers convenient digital data archiving and distribution. Its ability to convert hard copies into high-compression PDFs and Searchable PDFs provide additional savings in bandwidth and help improve office productivity and communication workflow. Digital files can be directly sent to PCs/Network servers (FTP/SMB claims)/SMTP files (Email, Fax) destinations, or directly stored as scanned files to USB removable media.
The MF Toolbox user software, which is available on the new monochrome series (MF4690, MF4890, MF4570dn and MF4880dn), offers a score-to-PDF function (Compact, Searchable and Multi-page PDF) as well as OCR converter.
Optimized copying and scanning
The new imageCLASS MFPs offer enhanced copying features such as the ID Card copy setting that allows users to copy both sides of an ID Card onto a single A4/LTR (JIS) page without having to scale down the image size. Copy centers, Immigration offices, insurance, credit card/banking recruitment (application setups), or any customer service or administrative counters, will find this feature extremely helpful as fewer time is needed to perform time consuming tasks.
With its automatic 2-sided printing feature, booklet copying can also be easily done with output to two-sided book or calendar orientations.
Ease of faxing
The two-sided models (MF8450C Tray Board, MF4690, MF4570dn, MF4880dn) feature a built-in Super G3 Fax modem, which helps transmit faxes at a speed of 3 seconds per page, thereby reducing the cost of phone bills.
Canon's unique Ultra High Quality (UHQ™) image-processing system ensures that all details of a fax appear clearly when sending a combination of diagrams, pictures and text. In addition, PC faxing is also available that allow users to fax documents directly from a PC, removing the need to print a hardcopy before faxing. PC faxing via network-connected PCs can also be done on network-ready models (MF4570dn, MF4880dn).
Enhanced LCD viewing experience and usability
Both imageCLASS colour models feature a user-friendly 8-line LCD Panel (from 16 - 32° angled that can be operated even while seated. The 3.5-inch TFT screen with Graphical User Interface is intuitively designed and offers a clear view. The LCD screens of the monochrome imageCLASS series are white-backlit to improve text visibility for easier reading.
Operating System
All the new imageCLASS MFP series support the latest Operating Systems, namely: Windows® 2000/XP/Server 2003 (network models) / Vista / Server 2008 (network models), Mac OS 10.3.9 and above, as well as various versions of Linux.
"MEAP and UFRII LT Drivers can be downloaded from Canon's website under "Support & Download"."
Canon is also offers convenience.
Canon is proud to be the first manufacturer of laser MFPs which deploy a number of eco-friendly printing technologies in the SME segment. Sustainable, it offers printing features and more on MFP range from the entry-level imageCLASS MF4690d, to the more advanced desktop laser printer models. This auto duplex printing feature is built as a standard offering aimed at helping businesses reduce paper usage by 50% or more.
Lowest power saving consumption for an office MFP
Canon laser MFPs are all designed with energy-conserving architecture for lower warm-up times and lower power consumption while machines are in sleep mode. The MF8450C consumes a nominal of approximately 1.1Watt of energy in sleep mode (while connected PCs are turned off. 10 Watts (sleep mode consumption while connected PCs are active); while the MF4690d, MF4570dn, MF4570dw and MF4880dw consume approximately 2 Watts of energy in sleep mode. In addition, the weekly TEC (Typical Electricity Consumption) rating has proven Canon imageCLASS MFPs to offer the lowest weekly kWh/Watt hour power consumption within the product segment-refresh is up to 3 times savings in comparison with the available models in the global markets, as tested by the EU Energy Star organization.
Hardware technologies contributing to eco-friendliness
Canon's Lotus+ MAPS Fusing System (or On-Demand Fixing Technology) is deployed throughout Canon's laser multifunctional machines and consists of a pressing roller and fusing unit. The fusing unit has a built-in ceramic heater to heat the fusing film, which is then pressed by the pressing roller. The surface of the fusing film is coated with a rubber layer to use its elasticity for fusing images. The fusing film is heated instantaneously only when paper passes through the fusing unit. This helps achieve faster warm up time and preserve energy.
Canon observes the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive in all electronic products. RoHS restricts the use of certain harmful substances in electrical and electronic equipment and ensures that acceptable range standards are adhered to.
Warranty
All the above imageCLASS laser MFP series is offered at 2 YEARS ON SITE WARRANTY* ON PARTS & LABOR which makes businesses worry free on machine maintenance providing big savings on operational costs.
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The new imageCLASS laser MFP series are available at all Canon authorized dealers at the following selected model-wise retail prices:
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- MF4570dn* Php 16,995
- MF4570dw Php 26,995
- MF4690d Php 36,995
- MF8450C Php 150,995
For inquiries please call customer hotline: 884-8000; 886-8000 or 886-8011. Email: info@canon.com.ph. Visit: www.canon.com.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Villar's challenge

AT MONDAY'S INQUIRER PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, Sen. Manny Villar offered a simple but powerful defense of his heavy ad spending. There he pivoted and stayed on every more forceful challenge to his rivals for the presidency. His words are worth quoting in full:

EDITORIALS *Pero ko naman ang ginagamit ko. Ho-*
nestong pinaghirapan, namagis ako nang
husto, hindi sa ninakaw ng gobyerno. Hindi ako kailangan
kumuha ng mga pondo sa mga negosyante, hindi ako ang nagbibigay sa Manila, dahil bilang isang pribadong tao ay nagtatrabaho ako ang negosyo, at hindi yung nakakuha ako ng mga pondo galing sa gobyerno. Kaya ako nagsasalita ng ganito dahil ang sinasabi nila, 'Oh close translation: It's my money that I'm using. It's very important [that] we should also ask, not only how much has been spent, but who is giving [money] to them, because those may be the ones we elect as president, and sort the one facing [us] here.)

His challenge, however, is not without complications. It is true that, with the possible exception of Eduardo Cojuangco in 1992 and Joseph Estrada in 1998, Villar is the first nationally known political figure to run for the presidency entirely on his own money. But it is only natural to ask: How does he intend to recover all the money he will spend?

We do not underestimate the public appeal of a self-financed campaign. If Villar succeeds, he will be the first president to arrive in Malacañang financially beholden to no one. (At the height of the Noynoy Aquino euphoria, late last year, the possibility of a people-funded campaign, and thus a president-elect with no major financial debts of gratitude, also animated the Liberal Party.) Philippine polity, has not yet reached a sufficient level of maturity to subsidize the cost of party-based elections with contemporary public money, perhaps before then, a self-funded campaign (or one entirely supported by small donations from a broad spectrum of citizens) is the best means to negate the influences of vested interests.

Also, we should also point out that Sen. Mar Roxas, Aquino's vice-presidential candidate, started pulling away from Sen. Loren Legarda in surveys tracking the vice-presidential contest precisely at the time his coup started investing again in advertising campaigns. Indeed, Erap ("Ikh Paborap," who played first) and Sen. Jinggoy Madrigal ("Ja jinaking," who played fourth) seamlessly conquered all other candidates for the Senate in 2004. In other words, Roxas shares with Villar a track record of heavy campaign spending.

This was a point raised in the Inquirer debate against Madrigal, one of 10 officially accredited candidates for the presidency. Didn't you yourself use a celebrity endorser when you first ran for the Senate? She was asked. Madrigal, a surprisingly sensible speaker, responded by striking a counterintuitive note, saying she has seen the folly of her ways. That expression foolishness, however, spelled the difference between victory in 2004 and defeat in her first run for the Senate in 2001.

Heavy ad spending, to sum, is to us that covers a multitude of sinners.

What really concerns us, though, is the sheer magnitude of Villar's spending. Again, it is only natural to ask. How will he recoup his investment? *Pero ko naman ang ginagamit ko.* Precisely. But even the notoriously generous variety does not. While the billions given away, millions of pesos of his own money (it only looks that way). Villar needs to convince the public that he is, in fact, one of a kind, and can give away hundreds of millions, perhaps even the billions from political investors say (or needed) to finance a presidential run, owing without thought of recompense.

In other words, at stark levels of spending, Villar faces the prospect of himself becoming a vested interest.

Mayor being persecuted by politicians

I LIKE MOST THE FLAGGED SUBJECT OF THE resumption presidential candidate as last Sun-day's Inquirer debate. If do his Mayor of Kapatan Davey and he would dynamically handle dynasties.

Yes, family dynasties are an insult to our Constitution. The Constitution prohibits it but our politicians are expanding their family dynasties without any shame. Politicians who did not have one before are now starting their own. Even politicians who I thought were independent are now making their relatives run for public office. No legislator has filed an impeachment against the Constitutional ban because they plan to remain and expand their own family dynasties. Nobody has spoken against it either, except Sir Joe Bates. Unfortunately, he would have a difficult climb before becoming president.

It was our wish to start of family dynasties that made possible the murder that is the subject of an deal. If we do not put a stop to family dynasties, we would soon be like Medieval Europe, torn apart by warring feudal lords. It is happening now in Maguindanao where the clans are ready to kill over wrong.

I was also searching for the qualifications to say that they would stop the path history points, but I found only two. Jimmy Madrigal use it. The park hated system to history and can't put their cash and samples, no matter what you say to defend it. It worsens so much taxpayers' money and spreads corruption from the highest to the lowest ranks of society.

* * *

There is something I don't understand in the Hacienda Luisita murder case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. What was his motive? That is the first thing every detective in the mystery novels ask. What is the motive? Who

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

but the motive?

The government's star witness merely said that he heard Lacson order the killing because a certain "Sigue" was involved with Bubby Dacer. He did not say why "Sigue" was involved or even who he was. He said Sonny Dacer had charged a senator with the capital offense of graft.

Another capital crime looked against a citizen is the kidnapping rap filed against Taiwan businessman Mariano Tanenglian, his wife and their two children. The crime is non-bailable. Again, there is no motive. The supposed victim is a Taiwan businessman. Why would a Taiwan tycoon kidnap his own businessman, whose relatives cannot afford to pay ransom? What would he have gained from kidnapping a businessman?

* * *

Another close case of harassment is that of Mayor Pedro Campo of Bokipanan, Rizal. Gov. Emilano A. Ynarto III and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Rizal have suspended him, one after the other, for the misdemeanor cited in Republic Act No. 6713 ("Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials"). Supposedly, an ordinance passed by the Sangguniang Bayan of Bokipanan. The RA 6713 punishes misfeasance committed by the impetuous of the development coaches, but no one unanimously and only on the Bokipanan Sangguniang Bayan ordinance. Lacuna (107-32) and no collection through the city court system (67-13). In other words, the whole problem started with garbage.

You may think it is just nothing garbage, but there is a political angle to the issue in the garbage collectors. The trash collectors are paid by the residents for the city or municipality. In each truck driver reports that his route had collected and dumped so many truckloads of garbage for that day and the collector is paid for that. But there are no checking whether what they were reporting were correct. There was a lot of overreporting. Trucks that dumped only five truckloads reported double that.

Campo's crap-ticket system stopped that. For some reason, the provincial government of Rizal did not like that. The provincial board passed a resolution declaring the Bokipanan garbage system null and void.

On Feb. 3, 2008, the governor preventively suspended Campo for 60 days. The latter appealed to the Office of the President (OP) with prayer for the lifting of the suspension.

But before Malacañang could resolve Campo's appeal, the provincial board rendered a decision finding him guilty and imposed the maximum penalty of six months suspension.

Campo appealed to Malacañang. The OP issued the suspension order. The provincial council filed a petition for certiorari with the Court of Appeals.

On July 28, 2008, the CA annulled Malacañang's stay order. Campo filed a motion for reconsideration.

On Oct. 3, 2008, Malacañang rendered its decision on the appeal of Campo and exonerated him of the charges, reversing the provincial board's resolution suspending Campo for six months. The board filed a petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court, which the latter denied.

But suspicion, surprise, after more than a year and three months, on June 6, 2011, the OP suddenly, and after disposing of the case and losing jurisdiction over the same, came out with a decision affirming the six-month suspension of Campo. The fellow decision became effective as of 16 Oct. 3, 2008 decision on the same case that reversed Campo. What is going on here?

This is a clear case of persecution by professional politicians of a mayor who is not a politician. Campo is an engineer. He is the first non-politician to be in the whole province of Rizal.

But Campo may get his revenge in the May elections. He is running for governor against Ynares III.

Inquirer's 'bias'

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA DECLINED to attend the Inquirer presidential debate last Monday because of this newspaper's alleged bias against him. The bias was played a role in exposing some of the anomalies that took place during the Estrada administration, and in the sequence of events that led to his ouster. This aspect, in particular, has been particularly central to his understanding of the political system when he faced trial for plunder and of President Macapagal-Arroyo's shoddy pardon of his plunder conviction. It was precisely because of these that the Inquirer sustained fearless safeguards on its first (sponsored) debate, and even he would have found it fair—if he had shown up. Our bias, as independent journalists, is only and always for good governance and the democratic project.

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Still, good vs evil

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE ASKED ME RECENTLY: "DON'T you think that transforming the divide into a moral one is a little too high for the mass to grasp? Don't you think the better tack would be to talk about pit issues (subject to debate)?"

Not to all.

To begin with, you would not be transforming anything. You would not be raising or reducing or reshaping anything. That was exactly how the issue saw the choice from the very start, when Cory died and Noynoy Aquino unanimously his successor to run: the choice was a moral one. It was not a pragmatic choice between presidential candidates, between Roxas and Villar (Villar never even figured in the equation), between what the candidates had to offer. It was a choice to choose ourselves the GMA years and the Cory legacy, between Noynoy (or what he represented) and Gloria (or what she represented), between life and death.

It was a choice between Good and Evil.

The fact that Roxas got more than 60 percent showed that voters' loyalty a multitude-class or other sentiment. Not even Erap got those numbers at the height of his popularity. That is a cross-section of the populace speaking. No, that is the people shouting at the top of their lungs.

That how the word "moral," and you think either, you think whatever you think dealt nights of the soul. It is nothing of the kind. It is life and death, it is eating and starving, it is breathing and being shot in the head. It is as basics as it comes, good vs. evil—it is more powerful in Tagalog, mutter labor as mamamatay—it does nothing more profound.

It is the have vs. the nothaves, the daughter vs. the madrasta, Erap vs. Eddie Gaviola, the prosecutors vs. Erap—in his impeachment trial—, Erap Tuesday vs. the lumpen ng kalalabasan, the nation here vs. the unsavory goons, the old lady with the handicapped vs. the vendor she clutched to the bosom, the murder vs. the accused, the mugged vs. the mugger, the truth-teller vs. the liar, the bastard vs. the dutas, the defenders of life vs. the members for the measures of cheapside

of the Philippines vs. the Angelenos, Cory vs. Marcos, Obsmen vs. McCain, the will of the people vs. the lust of money, the people's campaign vs. the campaign of Money, Money, Money, the presidency vs. losing the presidency, Aquino vs. Villaroya.

It is the stuff of telenovelas, it is the stuff of movies, it is the stuff of politics, it is the stuff of life.

It takes men to energy, and southern must see them in the times. The equation works only when both elements are present. The power of the pen is impotent in the context, not to the individual strengths of the elements. Bradley knew we got to vote for its not close in political life. For a long, long time, GMA was seen as the worst leader this country has ever had after Marcos, or we were even better Marcos. Or all that a elected from the public was cynicism and narcissism. It was only after Cory died and Noynoy arose in her wake that the equation turned into a moral one. It was only in the situation that the vote jokes seemed into an epic drama to change things.

For the Aquino camp, that means it's not just enough to keep on the hell that the GMA curse is, or the horrors that the Cory legacy can be, it needs to keep on the hell that the GMA curse is and the horrors that the Cory legacy can be, at the same time. For the Aquino camp, that means that it's not just enough to keep on Villar as the embodiment, contradictor, or extension of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, or a handsome story or the infantile, arrogant, and passive-aggressive of the Cory legacy, it needs to keep on the one as the disease and on the other as the cure.

From the start, the particular election was never about mindless. It was about bondage and freedom, oppression and liberation, despair and hope. Why the hell should people care it is an election? An election presupposes a matter of consciousness. How can you intensely succeed someone who has been calling for a decade without a mandate? If this was an election or all, it was the same as the 1992 election of 1998, a choice not between the relative virtues of Cory and Marcos but a choice between light and dark, heaven and hell, hope and despair.

The situation remains the same. The Aquino camp can still go back to its roots, it can still make back the flame that roused into a raging fire but now but become whether it was motivating fanned it all. The people are angry, the people are pounding their fists, the people are shouting for change. The people are hopeful, the people are awakened, the people are demanding change.

What cares about Noynoy's plans for infrastructure? Simply removing the countries whose vast resources renders the wrong that lying, cheating and stealing are rewarded and rather threatening, killing the truth, and being exasperate are punished or motivation in infant mortality. Who cares about Noynoy's plans for economic development? Simply recapping a couple of corruption traps (severely completely, literally) is all there is to anything any other thing is not up to up, and completely spectacularly in that nothing impossibles a country more than an utter lack of moralidad. Who cares about Noynoy's plans for national security? You arrest the amigos who made the country home to desperadoes and insurgency and live them up against the wall, or it's legit equivalent some way. And have the death penalty scenarios, though we can always make an exception, and we will have more accountry than can be guaranteed by the armed forces or the insurgency companies.

The choice is between life and death. The choice is between the sins of hell and the glimpse of heaven. The choice is between Aquino and Villaroya.

The choice is between Good and Evil.

Unfocused presidential debate

THE INQUIRER-SPONSORED presidential debate at the University of the Philippines on Monday turned out to be a missed-all-on-two many issues. There was hardly any confrontation among the eight presidential candidates on hard issues.

According to the Internet research staff, "23 questions were asked, but many in the audience that packed the UP Theater left grumbling that there were still many questions that should have been asked, aside from those vetted by the committee which managed the debate. There were no interruptions. Those interrupted—actor, prosperity-gospel preacher, and ex-police chief Senator Panfilo Lacson, a second on social issues, and a chance on economic issues.

Designed to make the forum snappy, the format of timed questions called for the members of the panel to put questions to each of the candidates, but one consensus question to all, under a very limited time. The first round of questioning gave two minutes for both question and answer, the second, one minute and 30 seconds, and the third round, 1 minute and 15 seconds. With these time restrictions, the forum could not but be superficial, unable to dig deeper into issues.

No doubt the forum was lively, marked by spontaneous audience participation and interaction, and the debate fueled intense partisanship among the audience. While the front aisle began with high marks for audience participation, I doubt if the debate helped the voters in their search for the best to choose the "candidates' character or lack of it" and expose his or her "worthiness or lack of it."

From my point of view, the format could not do against hostility by public entertainment rather than to debate the candidates' platforms and issues. This format allowed candidates who were quick-on-their feet to put responsibilities to them.

Inquirer president Sandy Prieto Romualdez described the debate as the paper's contribution to the "country's most important election in a generation." There's no dispute that this May election is the most important election "in a generation," but it's hard to share her hope that "this event will help those undecided voters today and the next 99 days and beyond." The forum has not did not lead to illumination of the voters on issues that confront the candidates' positions. The format did not allow a clash of ideas over platforms and policies differentiating the candidates.

The debate's agenda was clogged with issues and it was structured to dodge confrontation on hard issues. It provided a good playing field for candidates with glib tongues. The panelists asked questions on a wide range of issues, such the midnight appointment of the Supreme Court chief justice, military unrest, corruption, political dynasties, private armies, separation of Church and State, peace and order in Mindanao, the environment, push factor, constitutional change, powers, and the Aquino administration's disaster packages. The panelists jammed these issues into the rest, and candidates could not but give superficial answers. The result was that it was impossible to put focus on issues and bring about a confrontation of platforms among the eight candidates.

Then, there was a weakness in debate between the two leading candidates in the survey—Senators Grace Poe-Llamanzares and Miriam Defensor-Santiago—because of the limited time. Poe could not answer questions on her campaign finance. Santiago was also quizzed about his position on the Reproductive Health Bill, which he bridged by saying all women should be consulted on the legislation.

What hijacked the limited time of constitutional change, earning it was not one of his priorities. Poe's time under attack from Sen. Bobby Madrigal over the G-8 road extension project, his inside election spending in 2013, and his front Sen. Bob Gordon on the election spending issue. Villar barely replied that it was his excuse his own spending, but he was asked where he got the millions being spent on the ads. Independent candidate Gilbert Teodoro was asked about his political and economic platform, which he was prepared to spell out, but thanks to the tight time allocation the audience was mercifully spared a lengthy and boring presentation.

The debate was scrambling and spotted in serious points such as when Madrigal was asked about the point of galvanizing and sailed eggs or if he would allow his friend husband to meddle in politics, or when a question was put to Aquino about his undisclosed assets from his various companies that she might be the power behind an impersonal president.

What it was her turn to speak, Madrigal did not seem as chance to carry on her running bid. So with Villar, against whom the national charges in the Senate rose the C-5 project. Asked to share his views on the growing good wish Villar, she noted that the looted good will has dried but. Villar's time is even more, but it illustrates the kind of debate and the mix of issues harassed by the moderators' panel. There were no cheap exchanges on policies and platforms. Economic issues took a backseat during the debate.

There was a hidden issue lurking behind the so-called debate among eight politicians, in a debate agenda that was designed with multiple issues, a framework that threatened one-on-one confrontation. The debate failed to join the issues. It's not a place under the shadow of recent surveys finding Aquino and Villar to a numerical tie. The question is: Did the debate change minds or affirm Aquino or Villar to break the tie?

The second edition of the debate should be a face-off between them.

Raid!

I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE EXPECTING A COLUMN about yesterday's business from at UP with the presidential candidates. I have a lot to share about that event, but I have to postpone that article because I want to write about a very urgent issue, one which has implications for Davao City.

The following is the mail conducted last Saturday on a hotel in Pasay. The young women evacuated to an NGO, the Council for Health and Development (CHD), resulting in the arrest of 42 of the workshop participants. The CHD was physician, one nurse and one midwife. All the others were community health workers.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Most of whom were poor farmers or workers who have been recruited as paramedics and health educators. The 42 were brought to Camp Panopio in Taguig Rizal.

The media reports have mostly featured the military's claims that the workshop participants were rebels and they were being trained to make bombs. There has been little from the detainees themselves because the news media have been denied access to see the detainees.

My columns today mainly uses information from Dr. Ernie de la Paz, vice president of Health Action for Human Rights, and press statements from CHD.

The workshop was being held on private property, a farm in resort owned by Dr. Rhoda Tolentino, a retired 71-year-old professor emeritus from the UP College of Medicine who often lets health NGOs use her place for such training activities.

Her most marital law town I heard of a military raid on that scale. Dr. Tolentino has been quoted in saying there were at least a hundred soldiers involved when they raided the farm at 6:30 a.m. Many remained in the premises of the farm even after the health workers had been hauled off. The military says they had a proper search warrant. GMA says they had none.

What makes the whole incident even more disturbing is that no one was allowed to visit the detainees over the weekend. A few relatives were able to visit the detainees on Monday and they say that the detainees have been maltreated, with one claiming he was subjected to electric shock during interrogation. Human rights groups are helping relatives and have filed for a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court, which means the military may have to produce the detainees soon.

Escalation?

Quick but happens, friends and relatives, as well as many health NGOs, are understandably agitated. Are we seeing a replay of the Marcos dictatorship, where health workers serving the poor are suspected of being subversives? Or is this an isolated incident? Is this a mere provocation and the regime's reaction to make the Mid-bother has been huge?

We need to associate raids with the police swooping down on prostitution dens, or shabu manufacturers and drug dealers. But during the Marcos dictatorship raids were also frequently directed against political dissidents. When martial law was declared, activists were arrested en masse throughout the country, arresting people from all walks of life who had been vocal in criticizing Ferdinand Marcos.

The most prominent dissidents at least had some protection because of media coverage and access to lawyers, but there were hundreds or even thousands of the unnamed victims of such harassment. Some of them had poor connections but had a real sense how much less said, soldiers or police arresting them on the basis (or rather villages) and the military looking for evidence of "subversive" activity, which could be anything from books by Marx to progressive novelists. (because the NPA was known to use alternative forms of publicity). If the military could not find materials, they would often end up "planting" evidence.

Raids almost always resulted in arrests, and much merely on the part of families. After a few months of martial law, it was becoming clear that the military was using torture during interrogation, or worse. This was the time when "salvaging" came into use, a reference to the torturing of the Filipino word "salvage" as a euphemism for "killing." Relatives considered themselves lucky if the bodies were found. Others were literally "disappeared," never to be seen again.

The first few years of martial law were the worst, but with time, organized groups of lawyers, the religious, activists and others who had suffered built up enough pressure for the Marcos government to observe international agreements on human rights.

NGOs were particularly vulnerable to these raids and staff members were trained about their rights, and what moves to make after a raid or arrest. It was not easy determining human rights violations. I remember that during the even mention "human rights" was itself considered subversive. Eventually though, "human rights" would enter the language of mainstream Philippine society so that today even government officials use the term.

Elections

Raids on NGOs continued after the dictatorship fell but a democratic regime meant more safeguards. Under the Aquino administration, the raids stopped up again, together with other human rights violations. These regressive acts became so widespread that the European Union sent to assess the progress when they did not find a pattern of political extrajudicial killings. I remember that meeting between Secretary Jose Mario Zarate Gonzales (Mario) was less combative, but did acknowledge there were human rights abuses.

Below de la Paz tells me that when she went around asking for help from government officials, the standard reply she got was, "But this is not MPA." Now even if there were, there is no justification for the raid. Even if there were evidence of illegal activities, the police and military would have to be governed by legal processes. Those who were arrested should have been given immediate access to relatives, as well as to legal and medical support.

In the years after the Marcos dictatorship, I have suffered of a raid on this office, with so many arrests and with each terrorist violation of the rights of detainees. The raid does not augur well for the election campaign. Many candidates will be outspoken in criticizing the government and incumbent government officials. If administration and security are allowed to rule, those in power can easily use the "MPA" tag on anyone who disagrees with them, and can have the military round them up to raid.

We have to use our candidates' forum on their positions about human rights. So far, I have only read of statements from Bayan representative, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Sen. Poe Quezon, all declaring the raid. Will our presidential candidates, all potential commanders-in-chief of the Armed Forces, be ready to walk their talk about defending human rights?

Candidates breaking the law

YESTERDAY WAS THE FIRST DAY OF THE OFFICIAL campaign period and most of the news was about how the candidates were breaking the law. Even in the early morning hours, there were already reports of police nabbing groups of men caught defacing walls, bridges and any fresh spot (angkasan) with campaign posters.

Later that morning, there was a story about how the party-list group Akbayan, led by veteran activist Mae Angelie Bitanconi, were leading down streets and places in front from along Ayala Road, where they were met by police who prevented only. The difference was that the Akbayan leaders were tearing down their own campaign propaganda, which Akbayan said had been attached to walls by their supporters without their knowledge. "I want to appeal to everyone to please open the trees because they have nothing to do with the elections," he said.

That is a thought school by the Ateneo De Manila Professor Antonio Contreras, who also expressed reminding candidates "that they must show that they are law-abiding citizens in the first place." As Rebel Rotary pointedly stated: "How can they effectively lead when they have so many violations?"

Earth Day Network urged all candidates and the public that there is a law, RO 9513, issued in 2008 that prohibits the destruction, damaging and injuring of trees. "We want to join the election fever but we're eventually kill the trees. The Internet, together with Bill Saunder Tree Queen of the Law of Nature Foundation and other groups, urged to avoid the common, is set to the class against violations.

* * *

EARTH DAY Network adds that it is strongly supporting the "Harare Free Elections" campaign of the National Solid Waste Management Commission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, calling on "all aspiring leaders, national and local, to make their campaigns as clean as possible by avoiding unnecessarily wasteful and environmentally irresponsible

At Large

Victor Dominguez Dantes

candidates should only post their posters in Comelec-designated areas. If not, then once again, they are simply showing us that they have no hesitation about breaking the law."

Stating that every election year "the country is deluged with campaign materials—and plastics that form piles of garbage in their wake," Sahasic Alliance, GREP executive director said it saddens him that "politicians (and their) are always awareness one and forget that they are also literally destroying the environment around is not worthy of our trust. It's about time that we vote for it."

* * *

BESIDES if a candidate cannot bring himself or himself to obey the law and respect the environment during a campaign, how can we expect that candidate to do the same when he or she is elected into office?

Perhaps the crucial test starts now, when we see our candidates' desire to say respect the laws and the environment. Their actions—or lack of it—will tell a lot.

* * *

It's not only character that we must judge ourselves as the campaign gets off the ground. We must also listen to what the candidates have to say in their views in governance, but also during their campaigns.

Environmentalists look particularly at the way candidates will address climate change and its apocalyptic effects, primarily by minimizing the trash that is typically generated in the course of a campaign. Others may would offer checklists to request for and public behavior towards various proposed policies for the business sector, the education sector, the health sector, the ordinary citizen, as well as personal ethics and background.

How's the time to draw up personal checklist to use in evaluating a candidate's choice he or her, and to consult that checklist at the election booth.

* * *

FOR the Valentine's Day episode of late cable TV show "Star versus," Sir Mary John Mananzan, priestess of the Bonafidelista mass in St. Scholastica's, lived her husband and me to talk about our marriage.

In the brief me which she cryptically her invitation, Sr. Mary John wanted to show that "feminists can have good marriages," and that many people in the audience pursuing their parents happens to be feminist can stand the test of time and adversity. Should I have been flattered that she thought our relationship a model such a marriage?

Anyway, the taping of "Star versus" proved to be a lot of fun. Sr. Mary John proved to be a "natural" and a one of the most relaxed TV hosts I have encountered in quite a while. Besides, I got to meet Ging Cojuangco, Sr. Mary John's best friend since high school, and she turned out to be a very good friends and colleagues, who are highest.

For the first "Star-mate," Sr. Mary John invited the husband of the former chief executive in the Philippines, working among others being Gabriela Cabezas, who said Sr. Mary John is one of four "founding members" of the movement, and was the first "Star-mate" to join the second show, along with Lenny Villar, a psychologist and relationship counselor. Both, who was one of the first graduates of the course on gender education for men, and Rowena A. M. Arbo graduate who teaches Ateneo Graduate School, also watch Sr. Mary John's one of four "founding members" of the movement, and was the first "Star-mate" to join the second show, along with Lenny Villar, a psychologist and relationship counselor. Both, who was one of the first graduates of the course on gender education for men, and Rowena A. M. Arbo graduate who teaches Ateneo Graduate School, also watch Sr. Mary John's "single lady's" take on love in three challenging views.

"Star-mates" airs at 9 p.m. on Saturdays over Destiny Cable. A TS tune is here!

Love in the age before Viagra

Looking Back

Antonio H. Ocampo

"LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA" BY GABRIEL Garcia Marquez is on a long list of books that I have to read before I die. I have been told, by so-called literary bluestockings-in-waiting, that this long and complicated novel is worth the time, but I don't often borrow or read in bits and pieces from days or month of topics to fill this column space.

Since Valentine's Day and Okinawa New Year come on the same day in 2016, I thought of doing a column on the various customs and love potions for sale in the makeshift stalls outside Quiapo church. I have seen the reused "liquid" bottles filled with orange and other colored drinks labeled "Pampalaki" (Male pep) or "Pampapogi" (Metrosexual values). There are love-ins, cum, herbs, crystals, gubat, and scores of various colors that make one wonder whether the opposite sex if not consumed or rubbed correctly to closely resisted Junior Bautista Chat Ledhal should campaign before you know the three attached to the same tree.)

Among the many fascinating scenes among unclaimed in the novel is the one where the author uses three-dozen plagues described with Latin manifestations to an image of the Christ child, the Santo Niño, depicted in all its naked glory. The boss image has the iconographic attributes, eyes to symbolize all-seeing omniscience, a heart to feel and feed the Santo Niño carries an orb which the right hand is raised in blessing. What makes this different from the rest is that the infant is dressed with an erect penis. I have not seen it yet but I have been told that the penis is not "real" (meaning not incorporeal) also comes in various sizes with some models having bigger, heavier the past, some even members). The model, which is supposed to make men irresistible to women, has been a favorite of those dark arts.

To get some feelings round on this, I turned to the late Fr. Francisco Demetrio's two volume "Encyclopedia of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs" (Cagayan de Oro: Xavier University, 1979). It has no entry on the subject. Santo Niño from Quiapo, but it contains a cubete section on "lumay" or love potions. Under the section on "Gayuma" (p. 266) are the ones that will make hope that one brings in scores suited.

First, there is the "Angelito" or "little angel" that is taken from the corpse of a female infant. Another method is to get a dead baby and have it to go about inquiring this outside. A cost says that it is difficult to get hot presence any time who has if the attention of all the beautiful maidens in this neighborhood. In saying is this "angelito" (service is should be buried with the remains of the "pobre girl" that maidens will make advances on the lovers.

Another amulet, made from the spleen from a spotless black cat, is said to make the lovers more loyal and affectionate to the user. Still, a last option is to abstain from bathing for a whole week, with no part of the body being washed, not even the face. The accumulated grime and grime (dihig) is then rubbed off and placed in a bottle, and then mixed with talks or chocolate that is said to drink unknowingly. This will make her more responsive to the user.

More difficult to do for a man is to eat a human fetus to a woman's liver. If accomplished, the woman will be more loyal to her husband. The method, which is almost impossible to do in urban areas today is to snatch the night day in search of a baking iron. When a man sees one, he should take a pebble from the ground and place it in his mouth. This will make him lucky in love, or perhaps save him his Dates.

You can also look for a star at the new moon. When you see One, if at a favorable time for courtship.

If you don't like making love amulets at night, there is one that you let water in the darkness. Pass the amulet quickly on your own eyes. Where the amulet touches the sunlight becomes visible. Keep it until you see Hawaii (have inside spy on a television) and close your eyes before you go blind. Then roll the tobacco and smoke it over the object of your affection. One method is to roll your Hyde Park in a piece of paper (or Manila paper) (Adi Wedemeier cuisine) and wood. Bring a handkerchief with you to church on Good Friday however it is Holy Week and that will make you someone to the opposite sex.

If you are brave enough to do so, go around at night on Good Friday in search of a special human species whose house you and drops a hand in one that you want swallow. In other variations to this kind of cannibalism, you can also use people with schizophrenia swallowing the amulet.

There is one thing the opinion of a newly husband girl can do. It's for gold-hill. He should rub in the dear after the ceremony so that she will never leave him.

Finally there is the belief that you can use the hair of your future spouse by standing before a mirror at which room at midnight holding eight candles. The face of the beloved will appear before your eyes. Better yet, you can choose on Valentine's Day but you have to wear black instead of red to make this work. The terrifying part of this process, as named helped by Nick Joaquin's classic short story, "May Day Eve," is that sometimes the face of Lucifer will appear in the mirror.

Oh, love answered they were in the age before Viagra.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@gmail.com

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PNC Franchise Association Most Promising Filipino Franchise of the Year 2009

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Globe Navigating Awards

- William D. Torres, Ph.D.
Consultant
(Former BFAD Director)

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Arroyo administration has no welfare program for OFWs

MAKATI MEDICAL EAST JOHN ATIBE comes screaming that Arroyo administration is engaging in massive advertising of its "accomplishments."

The intensified campaign is just a pure waste of public funds. It reveals the administration's growing desperation to boost her image in the face of her plunging popularity. There is no need for this campaign... the Arroyo administration has accomplished nothing worthwhile to alleviate the socio-economic plight of the majority of the Filipino people.

Most Filipinos would have no idea what to say — that during Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's administration, the overseas Filipinos have been living in misery and deep poverty.

The more than 10 million overseas Filipino workers abroad and their families have been unseen in Ms Arroyo's continued neglect of massive and dedicated OFWs.

Many of our fellow OFWs are from families of workers and farmers in the provinces who have been forced to accept "downsizing, days, and dangerous" jobs abroad amid the scarcity of available jobs in the homeland, only to end up victims of employers' abuse, maltreatment and labor malpractices.

For instance there are countless reports

LETTERS

to the Philippine Overseas Welfare Administration and Department of Foreign Affairs for undue tickets from the stranded OFWs, but under Ms Arroyo's regime, OFW needs and concerns have not been properly attended to.

The arrogant administration is only caring lip service to OFWs and their families for whom the government has no welfare programs that provide meaningful benefits. Thus despite the huge amount of OFWs hijacked — ensured to have reached P1.4 billion... held in trust by the government through the POEA, the OFWs and their families.

But huge amount of money spent by the Arroyo administration for its "legacy ads" could have been better spent for more valuable social services and welfare programs to alleviate the conditions of the majority of the poor Filipinos... workers, farmers, urban poor and OFWs.

—JOHN LEONARD MONTEROLA
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Mayumo Middle Lan.
mtgroup.com@gmail.com

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Province of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (PhP)	CONTRACT DURATION
[illegible]	Office of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Capitol, San Fernando City, La Union	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Office of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Capitol, San Fernando City, La Union	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		TOTAL	[illegible]	

Prospective bidder should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an approved contract budget of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. Other requirements are those of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and Philippine Bidding Documents (PBDs). Bidding is open to contractors registered under the Philippine laws, pursuant to Republic Act (R.A.) 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of the Invitation to Bid	February 10 – February 24, 2010, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Office of the Provincial Engineer, San Fernando City, La Union
2. Pre-Bid Conference	February 15, 2010, 2:00 PM, Provincial Capitol Building, San Fernando City, La Union
3. Opening of Bids	February 24, 2010, 9:00 AM, Provincial Capitol Building, San Fernando City, La Union
4. Bid Evaluation	March 1, 2010
5. Post-Qualification	March 2, 2010
6. Issuance of Award	March 3, 2010

All documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php5,000.00).

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION reserves its prerogative whatsoever to accept or reject any or all bids, to declare any or all bidders ineligible for any cogent reason, and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

GOV. MARIO T. LIMA
PBAC Chairman

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NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

MANILA NORTH TOLLWAYS CORPORATION

Noynoy: I will redistribute Luisita in 5 years

From page A1

transaction" and say more problem is how to transfer the land without the debt.

"We could have made a voluntary offer to sell from day one if we have only 10% our ownership. We get paid, and we will be left with a huge loan in the bank, but our descendants are left in a sad to perfect situation—10,000 farmers to divide 4,500 hectares of land that do not have equal productivity," said Aquino.

He running mate, Sen. Mar Roxas, himself a rich landowner, had the subjective him by showing that that the farmers' income are not dependent on the land.

"The land is mortgaged to the banks and they cannot pay their loans and they cannot get the land because it would all go to the banks," Roxas said.

Aquino said that his concern "sobrang nasaktan ang farmers" had already made the commitment to give them 10,000 hectares on what scheme they would get to effect the land transfer. He said this should also be supported by the corporation.

Aquino moved a press statement at the start of his national campaign promising to complete the distribution of over a million hectares of private lands during the five-year extension period of the new agrarian reform law.

He said that the would allow the government to grant more land, use agriculture extension services, irrigation, farm-to-market roads, to help farmers benefit more.

P150 billion fund

Aquino vowed that P150 billion allocated under Grupo SAMP formation with Infrawa which was approved last year (Aquino-abandoned during the outing) for the purchase of lands and he intended to use the funds to implement the land transfer in his own family's Hacienda.

Aquino's reform was the centerpiece of a poverty-alleviation program that Congress Aquino had vowed to undertake if he is also campaigned for president in the snap election of 1986 against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, a subsequent People Power revolution that ousted Marcos.

In 1988, President Aquino promulgated a comprehensive agrarian reform program, but her hacienda was exempted when it opted to distribute shares of stocks instead to farmers.

However, the Department of Agrarian Reform said that after 25 years, the arrangement had not improved the lives of the farmers and ordered the distribution of the lands to them. At the Cojuangcos' behest, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order. The case remains pending.

Those lands that remain unclassified are the huge estates, like Hacienda Luisita whose owners have resisted the program the past two decades. The Hacienda issue has become an albatross in the Aquino campaign, and a big question mark on his ability to address poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth.

Aquino as rapper

In Cagayan Jolo, Aquino doubled and entertained his audience by giving an impromptu performance of his political rap jingle on a basketball stage of the public market.

He told the crowd that he wanted to dispense the Villar camp's claims that he merely put on first mode he sang to make it sound like he was pimping.

In the evening, the group proceeded to Tacloban City for the unveiling of the 9-foot monument of Corazon Aquino.

During the press conference, Aquino and Roxas blasted Macapagal-Arroyo for their presidential candidates from Manny Villar for his perceived closeness to Arroyo. Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I have been taught as a child that if I pushed for something that is wrong, I will be part of that evil," Aquino said.

"Their alliance will eventually come out in the coming days. You can see from their actions and words that they do have a collaboration."

Roxas attacked Villar's "fake" image as seen from his counter-

BACK TO HIS ROOTS: Presidential candidate Sen. Noynoy Aquino took out to his grassroots as he and running mate Sen. Mar Roxas launch the first day of their campaign in Concepcion, Tarlac. — PHOTO

doing of his white hair and alleged botox treatment for his wrinkles.

"This campaign will remind us clean versus crook," he said.

While Aquino and Roxas stood on solid ground, Villar is the kids-at-odds on the Guanpolon public market, Aquino claimed that Mr. Roxas remained at his same target in the elections and that Villar and anyone else would seek to continue his "crooked system" should not be allowed to be in power.

Noynoy blasts Gibo

Aquino said this included his cousin, Luhan Kompo CEO presidential candidate Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro. Mr. Aquino's former defense secretary.

"I can relate that Gibo has said in Bicol that I don't think we have ever hit each other before the hole. He claimed in his slogan that it was possible for the country to grow fast but he has to explain why sure rule now when they have been in power for 30 years?" Aquino said.

With Villar rattling down Aquino's core bread-and-butter lead, the LP candidate said his campaign teams would aim at delivering a more clear and focused message primarily through 400,000 card-carrying volunteers ready to defend and promote him.

Aquino said that Villar, whom he described as his "closest competitor," would be his best ally in the campaign.

"My closest opponent matched what I said (about not raising taxes and managing the deficit) had he agreed that my platform is correct. As he follows my platform more and more, my opponent will constantly change his message because he has not been steadying what he is supposed to

Transformer team kicks off in Cavite

From page A1

school truck designed to look like "Optimus Prime" transmutes when the vehicle is turned into a robot that becomes a "Transformer." The front motif is down the "the candidates."

The 100-vehicle convoy of the Bajaj-Boron party included a concert stages and entertainers of the Philippine National Red Cross to show the humanitarian of Gordon as mayor, administrator of Subic Bay Freeport and Red Cross chair, and Fernando as mayor and chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

It set off from a gasoline station along the Southern Luzon Expressway where Gordon, who was delayed for one hour, was shuttled a replica of the sweet that he said his great-grandfather Jose Tuplo mixed from the Spaniards.

"If we are united, we can overcome all our enemies. Today we begin the first every of Generosity," he exhilarated.

Gordon chose Imus as the venue of their kick-off rally for a reason yesterday because it was there where Tuplo led a motley group that routed the Spanish garrison and seized 30 rifles and a Mauser cannon.

His effort to demonize Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo does not diminish Tuplo supreme municipal of Imus.

Gordon said the incident, known as the Battle of Imus, was regarded as "the first major victory of the Philippine Revolution against the Spanish conquerors."

"The battle symbol similar resistance in other parts of the country and eventually led to the downfall of the Spanish regime and the establishment of the Philippines republic," he said.

Freedom from surveys

Just as his supreme freight for freedom, Gordon said the challenge now was to free Filipinos from the shackles of popularity and surveys.

"We should not be prisoners of popularity. We should be trend-dominant leaders. We do not give a spank. We bring enlightenment," he said.

The senator took another dig at surveys showing him trailing behind frontrunners each in the presidential race.

"Statistics only reflect the current climate. Minsan (the) may take a survey among the la, mallos before crossing the bed las. Sana ha not conduct a survey before he was nailed to the cross. We cannot be hostages to surveys because we do not come from," he said.

"We need to have leaders chosen based on capacity and competence because we are not choosing the presidency; work ethic, not inheritance," Gordon added.

Poverty as campaign trick

Gordon criticized Sen. Manny Villar, the frontrunners party presidential candidate, for using poverty as a campaign strategy. He said his mother was actually poorer than Villar's but he was not exploiting her in the campaign.

"I stand on my own strengths," Gordon said.

Gordon said his mother also went around church to collect alms, "but I don't use my mother in my campaign." He added that while Villar went to exclusive Catholic school, he was a public school student.

He said that coming from a poor family did not mean a politician would work to help the poor. This campaign strategy, he said, was "out of fashion (passe)."

He asked: "Who among the candidates have really spent time to help the poor?"

Unlike the other candidates, he said he does not go to bumper-to-crash with the Red Cross, where he had helped build houses for the poor and provided the organization with more ambulances and equipment.

Will expenses be recouped?

Referring to reports that Villar had spent huge sums for his political ads, Gordon asked: "Who believes that Villar will not recoup the expenses if he wins?"

Gordon said that he and Fernando had the funds to buy ads, but would stay away from this. "Ish wants to start a report," he said.

Gordon and Fernando first got into the truck before transferring to a motorcade.

In the evening, the two gathered in front of Western Bellers Del Pilar Cathedral in Imus. In a party attended by some 8,000 people clad in red shirts, Fernando opened the rally singing "Bitang Urong" and dancing to the delight of the crowd.

Minded Imus, out and video, the fearless "Optimus Prime" aimed to "transform the buong nation mula sa corruption." Fernando said.

In the popular animated series that has spawned blockbuster movies, "Optimus Prime," a truck that transforms into a robot, is the leader of the "Autobots," a group waging a battle against the evilness of the "Decepticons."

Fernando, a mechanical engineer, spent the evening in the cab of the truck. His campaign staff said, the rig supposedly spent more than P50,000 buying "Optimus Prime" toy trucks just to perfect the design using recycled materials.

The 18-wheel truck-plus-tower truck is animated with robot limbs like a silver robot that "speaks" and "sings" and animates the names of "Gordon" and "Bayani." It is also equipped with a removable light post that could be used during night rallies.

CDs: sound great in CDs

Fernando distributed copies of his campaign theme song CD featuring all original Filipino songwriters.

"It's catchy it in the mind. It's good! The sound is really smooth," Fernando told a lolitoso to the gasoline station where he gave away the CDs.

Fernando became a champion of "Grabbing Cause Bonong Time," a singing contest aired by GMA 7, last year.

"I used my love to become a celebrity so we used how to use for one to endorse us," Fernando said in Filipino. "The only thing left is for us to not forget also to extract attention." With a report from Marlene P. Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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*Fares are in US Dollars and do not include taxes/charges. Passenger Facility Charges, or any applicable taxes.

DELTA

ORANGE CAMPAIGN The Nacionalista Party standard-bearer, Sen. Manny Villar, and his running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda, attend Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish Church in Calamba, Laguna, officiated by Fr. Rene Iriga before the formal kick-off rally at Barrio Town Plaza near the Rizal Shrine in Calamba, Laguna.

LONG JOURNEY Sen. Manny Villar and running mate Sen. Loren Legarda are surrounded by children during their kick-off rally of the Nacionalista Party in Calamba, Laguna, on Tuesday.

Villar starts '90-day journey to a better RP' in Laguna

From page A1

candidates Jinkee Ocampo and Lito Mara of the militant party-list groups Bayan Muna and Gabriela, respectively.

Ocampo, who was jailed during the dictatorship of Marcos Jr.'s father, slapped just fired only when the latter was called to give his speech.

'Only Willie'

If Villar pulled out all the stops for his presidential sortie, his kick-off rally was less key and only had celebrities like "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame to open up the event.

There was hardly any partisanship from an "energized" NP. "There's no need to reinvent the wheel because it works. This is what the people want," NP spokesperson and senatorial candidate Gilbert Remulla said hours before the rally started.

Early in the day, the NP was brusque bearing Legarda and senatorial candidates Ocampo, Mara, Remulla, Ramon "Mon-Mon" Villero, Cavinti Mayor Daniel Tumaru and Sen. Pia Cayetano, stopped at the public markets in the towns of Bian, Biñan, Sta. Rosa and Cabuyao.

Legarda and Mara have roots in the town of San Pablo.

Former Col. Ariel Querubin, detained on coup d'etat charges, sent his son Martin to campaign on his behalf.

Marcos and the NP point candidacies, Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., did not join the motorcade.

At noon, the party stopped Mass at St. John the Baptist church in Calamba, where Villar, too, showed up.

A singer and a comedian hosting games as well as the repeated play of "Akala Mo" and "Naging Malaya"—the latter, Villar's popular campaign jingle that starts with the line "Nakalaya na ba ito sa dagat ng kasaya". (Have you swum in a sea of gaiety), which is purportedly about how the candidate's impoverished childhood...kept the crowd entertained for hours at the Ilaraya plaza.

Mansesitan

"We're very much energized but we don't have to work much harder," Remulla said.

He said all the NP candidates were "feeling strongly" in the leap that Villar had made in the most recent Pulse Asia survey, which placed him neck and neck with his closest rival, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III of the Liberal Party.

Villar had apparently gained much from the latest poll, a survey result that were aired before the campaign period, which, according to Remulla, gave the NP "enough momentum."

He said the new limited action for political ads had produced a "level playing field."

Remulla also said the NP was focusing on strengthening its political machinery mainly up of the support of local candidates and civil society.

"They are the ones that will ultimately deliver the votes," he said.

'Good fight'

In a statement, the NP said it chose to launch its "good fight" in Rizal's birthplace "because the cradle of heroes is always the best symphonist of change."

"We would like to unveil our vision for the nation in the birthplace of the man who told us and showed us how to love it," the NP said.

It also said Laguna was chosen "because we believe that our vote to serve the people will assume a sacred dimension if made in the place symbolized by our national hero."

But Remulla talked in terms of votes.

He said reporters that while Laguna was not a known NP bailiwick, it was here to look off the campaign in the province because it had about 1.3 million voters.

"We see it as a challenge area—August. 4-6. From the surveys that we've seen, we have been in second place almost always, so it's a challenge for us to come here and try to [show] as many votes as we can," he said.

Remulla also said he saw the "surpassing of support" from the people during the motorcade: "People came out in droves, [we did not have] to bring them out."

The party has lined up campaign sorties in the provinces of Cavite, Pampanga and Quezon for the rest of the week.

7-point platform

In a prepared speech, Legarda announced her seven-point platform—proposals "leadership promised on the principles of good governance, a more holistic national development strategy, stronger position of environmental protection, stronger efforts to protect the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers, sustained, unremitting relationship and sincere organizations with communities and socio-civic rebels to achieve just and lasting peace throughout the country, empowerment of women in all spheres of life and work, and revision of reinforcement institutions and a supportive policy environment to enhance cultural identity and consciousness.

"These are what I stand for and will continue to champion as an elected national official," she said.

Legarda emphasized the need for a holistic platform of government. She called on the voting public to consider a candidate's "concrete and tangible record of action" in their choice of leaders.

"Our biggest fight is not a fight among politicians. It is a fight against poverty and hopelessness. That is what my seven-point agenda directly addresses," she said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 10, 2010
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	1 K 10:1-10
Gospel:	Mk 7:14-23

Jesus called the people to him again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand. Nothing that comes into you from outside can make you unclean. It is what comes out from within that makes you unclean. Let everyone who has ears listen." When Jesus got home and was away from the crowd, his disciples asked him about this saying and he replied, "So even you are dull? Do you not see that whatever comes into you from outside cannot make a person unclean? How it enters, not the heart but the stomach and is finally passed out." Thus he declared that all foods are clean. And he went on, "What comes out of a person is what defiles. For evil designs come out of the heart: theft, murder, adultery, jealousy, greed, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, slander, pride and folly. All these evil things come from within and make a person unclean."

Commentary

"From the inside, from your heart, come the evil ideas that lead you to do evil things."

Why are we what we do
is the key to holiness and right living.
No amount of ritual
can substitute for a pure heart,
a life full of love,
a soul bent on God.

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SPORTSWATCH

J-Ro joins Bahay Teresa golf

PGA CAMPAIGNER and FIVE-TIME Philippine Amateur champion Jennifer Rosales will play in St. Theresa's College Quezon City Alumnae Association (STCQAA) golf tournament at 8 a.m. today at the Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Cavite.

Joining Rosales in the 18-hole event dubbed Tee for Bahay Teresa are ex-Philippine Sports Commission chair Philip Juico and former Philippine Stock Exchange chairs Elvira Tuason Kalaw, among others. Tagle, Indian chess GM Wesley So and golfers and celebrities Jack Lam, Lance and Jaffar Ickler. Proceeds will be used for the construction of the Bahay Teresa, a house for alumnae meetings and activities.

For inquiries, call Rose Diaz-Sales at 7400115.

PBA sportswriting contest

THE PHOENIX FUEL MASTERS CUP(R) holds its annual sportswriting contest on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. before Game 3 of the PBA Philippine Cup semifinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Interest-interested finals Tembad and Star's Quinito Henson will give lectures on sportswriting and feature writing.

Participants should bring with them valid 2009-2010 school IDs or be alleged entry into the Big Dome.

The contest is backed by the PBA Commissioner's Office, Araneta Center, Solar Sports and PBA Press Photographers.

DLS-Lipa holds chess tilt

BY LA SALLE-LIPA NEWS | HOST A CHESS team tournament on Saturday, Feb. 12, at the fifth level clubhouse mall in De La Salle Lipa, Batangas.

Eight-round Swiss-system tilt is open only to non-FIDE (Chess) entries/players.

There are plans of the activities lined up for the school's 40th year anniversary.

For details, call or send a text message to Chancellor Gerardo at 0918-3037843 or MarkAnthony Ismail at 0917-4886918.

Malcati derby finals set

THE FINAL BOARD OF THE MAKATI (BAY-Isthmian 9-Cock Derby takes place today at the Makati Coliseum during all 6 p.m. with some 60 fights on tap.

But of 87 entries during Monday's opening round, only three proved perfect scores of four wins each.

The duplicated the feat in number of points after today's 4-cock finals will be announced tonight. Guaranteed prizes P2 million. For details, call 0915 996 and 7307144.

'Rambolan' round 2 on

TEAM RAMBOLAN'S RAMBOLAN'S RAMBOLAN on San Juan Coliseum today as the country's top cockfighting clubs square off in the "10-3 Multinationals Rambolan-9-Cock Derby."

Participants will attempt to score three wins today to prep their bid for the P15.5-million guaranteed prize the biggest in a single cock derby this year.

Derby has a P11.5-million guaranteed participation (GP) (7205899 and 7206896).

MAGIC guard Vince Carter lights up the highlights reel like he used to, catching Darius Singleton (left) and the Hornets with 40 points. AP/NBA

VC helps Magic swat Hornets

Kobe-less Lakers trip Spurs

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—VINCE CARTER had a season-high 40 points to lead the Orlando Magic back from a 17-point second-half deficit to beat the New Orleans Hornets, 103-117, on Monday.

Carter was 19-for-27 shooting and had 10 points in the second half with none of the seven making passes since he joined the Magic, who later scored one of their last 11 games.

Dwight Howard added 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Ryan Lewis finished with 18 points for Orlando.

Pete Augustin had 20 points, and Emeka Okafor and David West added 27 points apiece for the Hornets, who have lost four of five since Chris Paul went down with his injured left knee.

In Los Angeles, Pau Gasol had 25 points and 19 rebounds to lead five players in double figures as the Lakers whipped the San Antonio Spurs, 101-89, even without injured Kobe Bryant and Andrew Bynum.

Bryant missed his second consecutive game with a sore left ankle, while Bynum sat out with a bruised right hip.

In their absences, the Lakers used a collective effort to win to their final home game before the weekend's All-Star break. Nine Jackson added 16 points, Lamar Odom 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Jordan Farmar and Derek Fisher had 13 each.

Manu Ginobili scored 21 points, Tony Parker 20. Tim Duncan had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Antonio McDyess 12 rebounds for the Spurs, who have lost four to a row to the Lakers at Staples Center.

In Oakland, California, Jason Terry scored a season-high 36 points, including the go-ahead three-pointer, as Dallas rallied from a 14-point deficit to thwart Golden State 127-117.

Josh Howard and Dirk Nowitzki also had season highs with 25 and 24 points, respectively, for the Mavericks. Jason Kidd added 17 points and 12 assists.

Anthony Morrow scored a season-high 30 points and had 11 rebounds to lead the Warriors, who lost their seventh straight overall and fourth straight, including five at home. Monta Ellis scored 27 points before leaving the game with an apparent right knee injury in the 3rd and has minutes.

Stephen Curry scored 23 points to go with nine assists. AP

SBP hopes junior league will boost nat'l pool

By Jose Navarro

THE SAMAHANG BASKETBOL NG Pilipinas will unveil the finals of the 2009-2010 National Junior Championship at the University of San Carlos Gym in Cebu City on Feb. 15 to 20 with the hope of recruiting fresh faces for the national team.

SBP deputy executive director Bonnie Alfonso said schools which finished the regional and area qualifying rounds will dispute the title in the under-17 and under-19 division, age categories where the SBP is aggressively trying to come up with a talented pool of players.

Alfonso said there's a gap needed to be filled in the 17 to 19 age bracket that SBP hopes the NCAA will address.

For Junior University will be the team to beat in the U19 category with the Taiwanese juniors other area champions University of Luzon (Singapore) and University of Hsuan in Group B. Mapua-de Zamboanga, University of Baguio, University of San Agustin (Iloilo) and Our Lady of Fatima University are bunched in Group A.

In the U-17 bracket, Group A is composed of Mole Child School of Davao, Bello Grand Commercial High School, Sacred Heart College of Lanao, St. Claire College (SCC) and University of Baguio while FEU, USJR Cebu, Divine Word College Dagupan and Cabanatuan Sta Mariland HI are the qualifiers in Group B.

"The SBC is part of the SBP's comprehensive youth and grassroots program, which aims to identify talents in different age brackets tracked in the program, especially those found in the provinces," said Alfonso.

PSC eyes stronger China ties

By Jose Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION will strengthen its ties with Chinese sports officials for a more productive output in the Asian Games.

PSC chair Ritter Angping yesterday said good relations with the organizers of the 2010 Asiad in Guangzhou, China, may give the national team a better chance in subjective sports such as boxing, diving and dancesports.

Angping said the team are determined to sustain their Beijing Olympic performance while Korea, Japan and several Middle East countries are also eyeing big finishes.

China last hosted the Asian Games in 1990 in Beijing, which was also the site of the 2008 Olympics.

"We could probably lobby for a slight advantage, especially in subjective sports," said Angping, adding the country's special envoy to China for trade and investments.

Angping expects at least 10 gold medals from the event slated Nov. 12 to 27.

ANGPING

Biggest...

Previous #13

1. Paul Bud vs Jose (Dec. 2006)—P567,000
Officials and players from both teams were fined for a confrontation highlighted by unsavory language between Paul Bud coach Yeng Guiao and Talk 'N Text team manager Frankie Lim.

2. Alejo Alberto violent (Game 6, first conference championship in Cebu, May 2008)—P600,000
Alejo walked out of the game after Tata started raising fists in the court. Alejo paid P50,000 to Uratex "liquidating damages," P200,000 to "mental" damages and another P250,000 to "exemplary" damages.
Several others were also fined.

4. Paul Bud vs Jose (Game 4, 2008 Philippine Cup series vs Air Muscle, 2008)—P937,000
The Phoenix franchise was fined P400,000 for what the Commissioner's Office said was unsportsmanlike conduct by coach Yeng Guiao during the tournament's third game.

5. Talk 'N Text Purefoods melee (Jan. 2008)—P250,000
This was triggered when Purefoods player James Yap kicked Talk 'N Text player Terrence Leather from behind and then ran around the court as the teammates engaged in...

SOURCE: Boobie Juan of Research

RP Cuppers join Marawi tournament

THE MARAWI CITY TOURISM TOURISM council will on Feb. 11 at the Mindanao State University court.

The country's top 16 players, led by Ozeck Cagayan Bulacan Pacific and Dennis John Torres and former Australian double champion Tennis Casey Akramova, are competing in the event sponsored by Mayor Jialon Faisal "Fei" Indic.

Organized by the Board Tennis Players of the Philippines and sanctioned by Philippine Lawn Tennis Association, the tournament carries a total pot of P100,000.

"The vision of this tournament is to give the players enough exposure and at the same time give them opportunity to earn extra income," said UTPP president Hafiz Dimaporo. "Most of the tennis players were forced to work as instructors due to lack of tournaments. Through this and towards Grand prix game, they will make them busy playing and at the same time earn extra income."

Also competing are Ralph Kevin Bicir, Jaime Silva, Elliot Amaris, Ronald Jones, Rolando Raul, Rudy Pagkalinawa, Mark Reyes, Alexander Lucero, Arvin Raul, Kim Dee Ismael, Gilbert Francis and Jessie Mesa.

ABL FINALS

RP Patriots wary of Satria Muda

By Jaymica W. Pays

AS THE LEAGUE'S TOP SEED, THE Philippine Patriots have every right to march into Game 1 of the Asean Basketball League finals with a swagger.

Yet the players themselves want to keep their egos in check in the best-of-five showdown with Indonesia's Satria Muda Britama starting this Friday.

"The fact that we beat them three times, we're on a high," Patriots captain Bob Sakuragawa said yesterday.

"But at the same time, we don't want to be overconfident, because we're in the finals and everybody is going to bring a extra-special level of play."

The Patriots eyed the homestand advantage in the championship series overcoming the Filipinos' 4-1 pick in the Yasmin Bureo Arena in Pasig City.

The Patriots' American reinforcements Jason Dixon and Gabe Freeman said they must clamp down on Satria Muda imports Sakiera Miller and Alex Harmon.

"The key to stopping them is to stop both their imports from having big games," said Dixon during the PSA Forum yesterday at Dunkin's Ch Avenue.

"We can't allow them to have 20- or 30-point games. Indonesia is a very disciplined team. They don't play a lot of isolation-ball; they play cooler overall."

"I'm going to play my game and play hard-nosed defense," said Freeman, who averaged 17.5 points and 14 rebounds for the Patriots. "I don't want to lose a game, so... I want to sweep them."

The Patriots claimed the first showpiece outright after sweeping the Satria Lampot Dragons, 3-0, in the Final Four.

Satria Muda later clinched their berth in the finals with an 88-76 road game upset of No. 2 seed Singapore Slingers in their Game 3 decider last Sunday.

"Malice clothes, that's what wins games for us," Patriots forward Jeremie Gues said during the forum presented by Unilever Battery, Bigcity, Shakey's and Accel.

Coach Louie Alas said the Patriots, who swept Satria Muda in the three-round eliminations, plan to exploit their opponent's shallow guard rotation.

"They're very good if you allow them to execute their offense," said Alas. "But if you change them, they'll have a problem. We have to pressure them for 40 minutes."

COACH Louie Alas speaks in yesterday's PSA Forum. With him are (from left) Jason Dixon, Bob Sakuragawa, Gabe Freeman and Jeremie Gues.

Fewer sparring rounds this time for still-fit Manny

By Ray Lustre

PACQUIAO

IN FACE OF HIS last five fights, Manny Pacquiao logged at least 120 rounds of sparring.

Hong Kontan trainer Freddie Roach wants to limit the Filipino superstar to 100 rounds in his preparation for Cleverjohn Zultina Clottey on March 13 at the Cowboys Stadium in Texas.

Thinking that Pacquiao's upcoming pink fights really, Roach told ESPN 7 News' Chino Trinidad yesterday that 100 to 110 rounds will be sufficient to prepare Pacquiao for the defense of his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown against the bigger Clottey.

Pacquiao last logged 232 sparring rounds with a month left in training at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood. He has determined bigger and taller fighters like Bryan Brenda, Golden Glove champion Joseph Bernavidez, Mike Dallas and Ray Beltran.

"We don't need 120 rounds for this. It [Clottey] fight, maybe about a hundred, maybe 110, somewhere in that neighborhood," Roach said.

Pacquiao, the main said, is still sharp from his 12-round decision of Miguel Cotto last November.

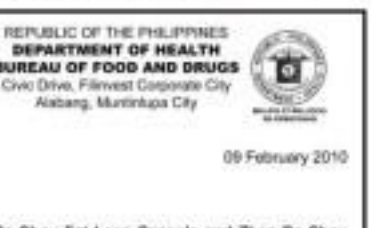
Roach is trying to bring in a Cameroon welterweight Abdellat Amidu (18-0 with 17 knockouts), who last fought in 2005, to provide some quality sparring for the ground-for-pound king.

"Manny is doing great in sparring and we are studying his game plan," Roach said. "He's not ready to fight yet but we have about four and a half weeks till fight night and he will be ready then."

After watching Clottey's fights, Roach believes that the Ghanaian is timid to counter Pacquiao's fifth straight knockout victim after David Diaz, Oscar De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton and Cotto.

Though Roach acknowledges Clottey's strength and ground chin, the four-time Trainer of the Year and Hall of Famer believes the Ghanaian makes too many fundamental mistakes which Pacquiao could exploit on fight night.

SK teener, B'sabas up



By Phaneg B. Castillo

CEBU, Philippines — MONG JEONG HAN IS a 14-year-old South Korean who has lived in the country for the last two years primarily to master the English language and the game of golf.

It was obvious from the way he talked and played yesterday that he is doing a decent job on his current objectives.

Hong fired a four-under-par 68 in blustery conditions to share the first round lead with seasoned Indonesian Jeme Tee-slalom in the PAVIA Cyprus-DLE Metro amateur championship at Cangalo's North course here.

Hong gained down six birdies in a 18-52 round, the same values submitted by the 26-year-old Balasabas, in the class took a four-shot lead over Erwin Madrilena, an obscure competitor from Bacolod who is reputedly set to debut for The Country club squad in the coming PBL hostilities.

"It feels," Hong told the fourteen when asked if he could speak English.

But he made all the talking on the course as he stole the thunder from the big guns.

Coached by his father, Sung, a caretaker at the Mission who plays to a handicap 3, opened with a bogey on No. 1 and closed out the front nine by dropping another shot.

But he was teeming. Not scaring home, showing four of his six birdies to catch Balasabas, the World Amateur veteran seeking to atone for a final-round collapse that opened the door for Ballen Baynon's narrow victory two years ago.

Balasabas, who also bogeyed the first, actually shot five of his seven birdies in the back nine, including three straight from No. 12.

"It was a tough day out there," Balasabas told the bagmen in Filipino. "I guess I was just able to put my approach shots in the right places and get my putts to work."

Peter Villaber and Zanderboy Globio shot 73s and lay five strokes off the pace, veterans reigning amateur champion Mark Fernando struggled to a 74 to be in the company of celebrated lawgolfer Miguel Tabuena and four others.

Baynon, despite a bad lunch, charmed out a 75, the same card of Jared Abadia, the host Cebu reigning champion Clyde Mondilla, Ed Macam, Noel Lampanelo and Ivan Banzuan.

The tournament, one of the most prestigious amateur events in the country does not have a defending champion after Singapore-ac Quincy Quek turned pro this year.

All the country's brightest talents, however, are here, save for Mervyn Alabbo, who had a bad case of homesickness, according to teammate Baynon.

Fake passports easy to acquire

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

SENIOR TIMES IN THE MAY/JUNA PRESIdent Mark Joseph has attempted to wrap the age group swimmers of coach Susan Papa, secretary general of Aquatic Sports Association of the Philippines or ASAP Inner parties, joining in swimming competitions held abroad.

In all the times that he has tried though, Mark has failed, no matter what tactics he employed.

Early this month, I was surprised to receive an e-mail bearing back-and-forth communication among the PSAA, the ASAP and the Swimming Federation of Malaysia or SUCM, an association that invited Papa and her swimmers to compete in the Glad Salonda Swimming International meet this February.

The SEA Mark Joseph succeeded, no thanks to a letter he sent, an ASAPer Edwin Chong, whereby he hinted that ASAP may have cleared on the spot of the participants.

"Because last, this small group of troublemakers, unable to follow PSAA and Fina rules, try to circumvent them in all possible ways," Mark's letter read.

"We cannot warrant that the identification and open passports with false dates of birth are be totally acquired in the Philippines, of the swimmers under ASAP are truthful. I would not like our association this member, or any of our members, to be victims of changing and circumstances."

* * *

While Joseph may be gloating over his success in aborting the participation of the ASAP swimmers in the Sabah meet, he probably does not know what else may he took might have very serious and far-reaching repercussions, as excerpts of the letter sent to him by the assistant sports adviser of another daily will show:

"I write you as a parent and as a Filipino citizen."

"I was angered by your e-mail accusing the participants of falsifying their passports and in your communication with a foreign country (where you called) the Philippines as a nation of thieves. For your information the oldest of the fourth boys, poise to be our son, who is 17 years old, and the competition is for 8-under to 17 age groupers. I would like you to tell me who specifically are the cheats in this case, otherwise, if you cannot name names and substantiate your charges which are sent on print to many e-mail addresses all over the world, I will file an action against you."

The letter of the irate parent is very lengthy and I wish I could print it in its entirety. He said his son and three others were not allowed to swim under ASAP running mate embarrassment and humiliation.

"I am filing charges against Joseph. He will have to answer point by point all the issues I have raised," the editor said.

Most of the controversial issues raised by my colleague have nothing to do with the Sabah meet.

* * *

I was surprised to get a phone call from former Red Bull ruggy ace Mondoza whom I had not heard from for ages.

Best known as an enforcer during his PBA days, Jay had a complaint against Ironclads Cam. The Bert himself, whom he had brought to the 2000 world Florida City which was severely damaged by Typhoon "Dinding."

Four months later, the car is still in exactly the same condition as Oinboy had left it. Denial!

"The mechanics said the MCC or computer has wrecked to be replaced to start it up again, so I ordered one immediately. Up to now though, [still] no dismantling any sun from Japan. I know it usually takes from two to four weeks to order spare parts from Japan, but definitely not five months," reasoned Jay.

"I have been following up on the order but people in the spare parts department have been giving me the run-around, coming up with all sorts of excuses on why the unit will not] available. Eto at ano nga? sad. But I thought I was better than my car was treated for serious and Boobs."

* * *

What I didn't tell Jay is that we're in the same leaky boat. My 2-year-old Toyota RAV is also a flood victim and as of today is still undergoing major repairs at Toyota Otis where I had purchased it.

Why is it taking so long? To some mids, there are several vital parts that need replacement and each part is ordered only after the damage is discovered. One thing I also discovered, the prices of spare parts vary in every dealer. The price difference could be as much as P10,000. And not one dealership has a monopoly of low cost items.

Canvassing for parts is also causing the delay.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

09 February 2010

FDA ADVISORY
No. 2010 - 003

SUBJECT: Zhen De Shou Fat Loss Capsule and Zhen De Shou Fat Loss Tea

In the interest of protecting public health and safety, all consumers are hereby warned not to buy, consume or use the products bearing the name **Zhen De Shou Fat Loss Capsule and Zhen De Shou Fat Loss Tea.**

Findings of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) show that the aforesaid products are not registered and there is no pending application before this Office for registration covering the above products. Worse, laboratory examinations show that samples of **ZHEN DE SHOU Fat Loss Capsule** contain as their ingredients **Amphetamine, Sibutramine, or steroids**, either singly or in combination with each other. Not being registered, it is illegal for the above products to contain such ingredients. Furthermore, consumers can be put on an imminent danger or injury when using such products.

All establishments or outlets are warned against selling and/or dispensing the aforementioned products and anyone found selling the said products will be penalized severely.

All concerned are enjoined to bring to the attention of the FDA (Tel. No. 8078275) any information that may lead to the apprehension of persons dealing with the subject products.

NAZARITA T. TACANDONG, RPh, MPA
Acting Director IV

SPORTS
Editor: Teddyboy S. Malasa-ao
Associate Editor: Francis T. J. Cebrero

Biggest PBA single-game penalties

1. Talk 'N Text walkout (Game 4, quarterfinal series vs Barangay Ginebra) P500,000 and a Vitoria-Inquirer Tour" worth P500,000
2. Talk 'N Text [illegible]

P1.2 MILLION SANCTION

For walking out, PBA fines TNT record sum

By Cedelf F. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION yesterday slapped a P1.2 million fine—the biggest in league history—on Talk 'N Text for walking out of Game 4 of its best-of-five quarterfinal series with Barangay Ginebra eventually won by the Gin Kings.

In explaining the landmark decision, commissioner Sonny Barrios said the league is merely protecting the interest of the fans, who "happen to be the lifeblood of the league."

But Talk 'N Text is protesting the decision with team manager Virgil Villavelez seeking "reconsideration" in the letter sent by Barrios.

"We will protect and seek clarification on this fine," Villavelez told the Inquirer over the phone. "We can't see the fair comparison that the reconsideration is talking about in his letter. We just want him to explain it."

Barrios levied a P500,000 fine on the Tropang Texters, and this amount shall be paid to Barangay Ginebra under section 32 of the PBA constitution and by-laws.

The Texters also forfeited their share in the gate receipts and TV revenues, which could amount to anywhere from P200,000 to P250,000, to the nine other PBA ballclubs.

League rules also allow the commissioner to have discretion to levy more fines on walkouts. And Barrios slapped an additional P500,000 on the Texters, which he said will go to the Players' Educational Trust Fund for the benefit of the players and their dependents.

With the hefty fine, Barrios said he hopes there won't be any repetition of the incident that happened last Friday.

The Tropang Texters—who complained about the officiating in the series, especially the disparity in fouls called—walked out with a minute left in the first quarter after Rassel de Ocampo was ejected for a Flagrant Foul 2.

The play, which saw De Ocampo elbow landing on Ronald Tubid's face, was initially reviewed by game officials several times before the decision was announced.

"It's not good to opt for a walkout or even think about a walkout," Barrios said.

"Those are prohibited conduct and penalizes to severely retaliate a team's disagreement with officiating so that the fans do not become innocent and unwilling victims of a team's personal vendetta."

Talk 'N Text's ouster in the first walkout incident in 20 years. Negre also thrusted off the court in the 1990 Open Conference finals against Shell and was fined P500,000, the biggest in PBA history until the Talk 'N Text fine.

Beermen, Aces duel battle-weary semis foes

BATTLE-WEARY yet pumped up by tough semifinal victories, Barangay Ginebra and Purefoods clash with Media and San Miguel, respectively, in Game 1 of separate best-of-seven semifinal series today in the 35th PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Gin Kings, who prevailed over Talk 'N Text in a highly emotional quarterfinal series, take the floor against the well-rested Aces at 5 p.m. The 7:30 finale, which pitted Purefoods and Petron, battle the second-seeded Beermen in the second game.

Alaska coach Tim Cone, whose team lost four of its last six games to close out the eliminations round, believes his team has handled the three-week layoff well.

"Long layoffs are always a factor, but unlike the Christmas break, I feel we've prepared very well during this season break and we're ready to play at a high level," Cone said.

It will be the first time in 13 years that the Aces-Boys franchise plays a best-of-seven series against Alaska. Their last was in Gordon's Gin Boars, they edged Aces, 4-2, in the 1997 Commissioner's Cup finals.

Coming off a five-game series victory they fought back from 0-2 down, Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said league will surely be a ticket in the series.

"Being in game three is so important," said Uichico. "I need to do a good job of joining the players."

San Miguel has likewise not played a game in three weeks and coach Siot Tanquingcen hopes his team comes out strong in Game 1.

Cedelf F. Tupas

Aplus METRO
Gino Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

IN 2007, for every 100 Manilefios in the working age group (15 to 64 years), there were about 46 dependents (aged 0 to 14 years and 65 years and above).
SOURCE: Economic Inquirer Research

'HAYDEN CAM' SCANDAL

PRC turns down Kho's appeal

By Tina G. Santos

THE BOARD OF MEDICINE OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION Commission (PRC) has denied for lack of merit cosmetic surgeon Dr. Hayden Kho Jr.'s motion seeking the reversal of its earlier decision to permanently strip him of his medical license for "committing immorality as well as dishonorable and unethical conduct."

However, Hector Manuis, head of the PRC legal division, said it was not clear if the board's decision was already final or if Kho could still file another motion for reconsideration.

"But once the decision becomes final and executory, his license will be permanently revoked," Manuis said Tuesday.

In his motion for consideration, Kho said the board did not observe due process when it decided on his case. He also claimed that the items discussed in the board's decision were not taken up during the pre-trial.

The board, however, denied his arguments in its order dated Feb. 8.

"All the issues resolved in the decision were necessarily included in the issues posed in the pre-trial order dated July 30, 2009. Respondent was given an opportunity to answer all the issues in the decision," it said.

The petition to revoke Kho's medical license was based on a complaint filed by actress Katrina Halili who had accused him of videotaping their sexual encounters without her knowledge and consent.

The videos, including some showing Kho in intimate situations with other women, went viral worldwide on the Internet.

"We are thankful that the PRC (board) only resolved and denied the Alimony motion for reconsideration filed by [Kho]. It is only right for PRC not to allow [Kho] to practice his medical profession. Miss Halili will continue to pursue the criminal case she filed against Hayden until he is sent to jail," Halili's lawyer, Raymund Dehol, said.

Halili had said in her petition before the PRC that she wanted to prevent the doctor from preying on other women who could be his patients.

This is the second adverse ruling against Kho who was suspended in September for one year by the Philippine Medical Association. "No comment otherwise to the position."

He is also facing a malpractice suit which was likewise filed by Halili. In addition, the National Bureau of Investigation has charged him with criminal violation for videotaping his intimate encounters with the actress.

Sought for comment, Kho's lawyer, Jesse Garcia, said she has yet to receive copy of the PRC decision.

"We haven't gotten any news about that, we have yet to see the copy of the decision so I cannot make any comment for now," Garcia told the Inquirer.

Court says taipan's daughter can vote

By Julie M. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY COURT HAS ruled that businesswoman Vivienne Tan, daughter of fugitive taipan Lucio Tan, is qualified to vote in the May elections.

In an eight-page decision, Judge Henri Jean Paul Inting of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 95 said Vivienne was a Filipino citizen.

The ruling in effect reversed an earlier order issued by the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 37 which ordered the businesswoman's exclusion from the city's list of qualified voters due to questions about her citizenship.

Vivienne is running for a seat in the House of Representatives in the city's first district.

The petition against her was filed by her rival, incumbent Rep. Vincent Crisologo, who is running for reelection.

Based on court records, Vivienne became an American citizen in 1993.

But in November last year, she took an oath and reacquired her Filipino citizenship.

"Having reacquired her Filipino citizenship, [Vivienne Tan] is deemed not to have lost her Filipino citizenship and is therefore a valid registered voter. In short, whatever defects [she] may have had in her nationality after the registered as a voter should now be deemed cured by her reacquisition of her Filipino citizenship under the law," Inting said in his decision dated Feb. 8.

VIVIENNE Tan, daughter of taipan Lucio Tan, shows a copy of the court ruling which makes she is qualified to vote in Quezon City's first district.

Vivienne welcomed the court decision, saying it meant that she was fully qualified to be a voter and to run as a representative in her district.

Moreover, she said, have a (disqualification) case filed against her by Cristologo before the Commission on Elections.

In a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, Vivienne spoke about her father.

"Actually he has discouraged me from running. He wanted me to stay in the private sector. I'm pretty independent from my father and I have my own interests," she told reporters.

She said her campaign platform was focused on the following issues: Education, livelihood opportunities, housing projects and social welfare.

Inform us of your rally plans, MMDA tells politicians

By Nitz Calleja

TO PREVENT TRAFFIC CHAOS and disorder in the streets, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has called on political parties to coordinate with the agency before organizing motorcades or political gatherings on Edsa and other major thoroughfares in Metro Manila.

With the start of the campaign period for candidates seeking national posts, MMDA Chair Oscar Inocencio, yesterday asked organizers to inform the Traffic Operation Center (TOC) beforehand of any political meetings being planned in the metropolis.

He also urged them to strictly observe traffic rules and regulations during these gatherings.

"It is well within their right to conduct their campaign activities but if there will be big shows there in the streets, we will go after them and hold them liable," Inocencio said in a statement.

He added that the Metro Manila Council, which is composed of the 17 mayors in Metro Manila, has passed an ordinance prohibiting motorcades or parades on Edsa and other major roads if these have not been cleared with and coordinated with the MMDA first.

Inocencio explained that prior coordination with the MMDA is important to help the agency prepare traffic contingency measures and make the necessary adjustments in the deployment of its traffic personnel.

"This policy covers all local and national political organizations. We will have no exceptions. If they will not comply with the requirements, we will not allow them to hold their campaign activities anywhere," he said.

Organizations conducting political campaigns must submit to the MMDA the date and time of their motorcades or parades, number of participating vehicles and the expected routes and traffic plans, if any, he added.

ANTIPRIDA worker removes posters of Sen. Richard Gordon and former MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando displayed on Edsa, Pasay City. According to the agency, campaign posters are not allowed on the main thoroughfare. PHOTO BY RICHARD GUTIERREZ

3 men killed in shoot-out with cops after robbing cabbie, stealing vehicle

By Mancy C. Carvajal

THREE MEN WHO HAD JUST taken a gunpoint a taxi driver's unit and his earnings for the day were killed in a shoot-out with policemen in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City, Tuesday morning.

Supt. Marcelino Bolivar, chief of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Intelligence and Operations Unit, said the slain men had yet to be identified.

He added that the three held up Joel Villena, the driver of an NBG taxi cab with plate number TXR 980, in Project 6, Quezon City at around 1 a.m. yesterday.

Villena, however, immediately reported the robbery to the police which alerted three men on patrol to watch out for the stolen vehicle.

When the taxi cab was spotted on Congressional Avenue at around 1:30 a.m. by a group of policemen, they tried to flag it down but the driver stepped on the gas, leading to a chase.

But just minutes into the chase, the taxi cab crashed into a tree on the center island.

Police said three men rushed out of the vehicle and fired at the policemen chasing them.

A shoot-out then ensued, resulting in their deaths.

Police said the gunfight lasted for only several minutes.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Ibanez, head of the QCPD district homicide section, said they did not find any identification cards on the slain men.

He described them as between the ages of 25 and 30 and of medium built.

All three were dressed in T-shirts, short pants and slippers, he added.

One of them had a tattoo which read "ipa pray na" on his back while another had serious all over his body.

Recovered from them were an improvised shotgun, a .357 revolver, a cal. .38 revolver and the P1,340 in cash they took from Villena, the taxi driver.

Pasig judge sentences 2 Fernandos to up to 2 years in jail for drugs

By DJ Yap

FWO MEN CAUGHT SNIFFING methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu in a pot session at least nine years ago were sentenced to up to two years in jail by a Pasig court.

However, the accused—Fernando Salinas and Fernando Sucino—were not treated as hardened criminals when Judge Mercedes Posadas-Jumapao on Wednesday as both had jumped bail and were thus convicted "in absentia" by Judge Maria Theresa Cruz-Sun Gabriel of the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 151.

The two were found guilty of violating Section 16, Article II of Republic Act 6425, or the Dangerous Drugs Act, and sentenced to suffer from six months to two years in prison.

Their cosentenced, Lito Impilaga, earlier pleaded "guilty" to the charge, and was thus sentenced separately.

Court records showed that Salinas, Sucino and Impilaga were caught in a raid of an entertainment in a pot session on Aug. 30, 2001 in Salinas' house in Villa Alberan, Barangay.

At least led by PO3 Rolando Salinas, acting on a tip, formed the group enabling "shabu" and promptly arrested them, court documents showed.

Upon posting bail, Salinas reportedly failed to show up to the scheduled hearings.

Sucino, on the other hand, showed up during the trial and testified that the three of them were only having a drinking session when the policemen came.

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PNOC

INVITATION TO BID

NBI Metro chief is bureau's new spokesperson

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) has appointed a new spokesperson, a change that—according to sources in the bureau—was prompted by the previous official's "productivity in giving information to the media."

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring recently replaced Ric Diaz with National Capital Region (NCR) head and Lawyer Edward Villaru.

Counterterrorism head

Diaz, however, will remain his post as head of the NBI counterterrorism unit (CTU).

As deputy NBI spokesperson, he will be in charge of dealing with media in Villaru's absence.

Villaru, on the other hand, will continue to head the NCR office.

Mantaring said the movement was aimed at "tightening the mesh head" of the CTU chief although sources claimed that it may have something to do with Diaz's being too generous when it comes to giving the media with information.

Good performance

Mantaring, however, denied this. He told the Inquirer: "It [talents to Secretary Diaz, he performed well in his role as the bureau spokesman."

He pointed out that heading the bureau's anti-terrorism effort was a heavy responsibility.

"I have not relieved him from his post. He is still spokesman although he can only act as such in the absence of Attorney Villaru," Mantaring said.

Security matters

He added that apart from his duties as CTU chief, Diaz is in charge of organizing the security escort detail for Dato Umay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. whenever the latter has to attend hearings in connection with the Maguindanao massacre.

Diaz was appointed to act as the bureau's spokesperson after Mel arrigan's division head and lawyer Allan Gozuelo relinquished the position to focus on policies.

Gozuelo is resuming his governor Datu Samsudin Sarimol.

Reassigned for comment, Diaz said he welcomed his replacement as it would give him more time to cases being handled by his unit.

Big-time cases

The NBI-CTU is currently handling several big-time cases, including the Maguindanao massacre and the Bacor-Cotabato double-murder case.

Diaz, a former radio broadcaster in Bicol, also served as the bureau's spokesperson during the term of the late NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PNOC

INVITATION TO BID

METROBRIEFS

'Mandaluyong mayoral bet can still campaign'

ERAP ST Albert Bautista will free to campaign for mayor of Mandaluyong City, but he will have to do so from behind bars, according to the city election officer. Mandaluyong election officer Roman Alcazar said the 39-year-old Bautista had become disqualified from the mayoral race despite the drug charges he is facing. "As far as his candidacy is concerned, there is no effect," he told the Inquirer. "One of the grounds for disqualification is having a final judgment to the crime, and in his case, he is still under investigation." Alcazar cited the cases of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and former Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roman Jalosjos, who were able to campaign while under detention. Brig. Gen. Danny Lim, who is seeking a Senate seat, is also detained, he noted. Bautista, who is making similar police custody, will be arraigned on drugs charges on Wednesday (February 10) before Judge Winnifredo Fernandez of the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 164. Earlier, a prosecutor found cause to indict him on charges he tried to sell plastic sachets of a white crystalline substance, reinvisal, or related positive for cocaine, to undercover narcotics agents during an entrapment operation in a food hotel restaurant in Pasig City on Jan. 29. DJ Yap

Malonzo files disqualification case vs Echiverri

CANDIDATES eying for the top posts in Caloocan City have started filing disqualification cases against their rivals. Another disqualification case, this time against incumbent Mayor Enrico Echiverri, is expected to be resolved by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) this week. Reynaldo Malonzo, a former mayor of the city who is now running for vice mayor, earlier asked the Comelec to disqualify Echiverri for submitting a false certificate of candidacy (COC) instead of avoid it. He said Echiverri as a driver's license or a passport. Echiverri is running for re-election. Malonzo cited in his petition a 2004 Supreme Court ruling prohibiting notary public from accepting a candidacy if COC as evidence of identity. On Friday, the Caloocan Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 52 ordered the Comelec's election officer to remove from the Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio from the permanent list of voters in the city's precincts data list for giving a fake address in his CoC. Asistio is running for mayor with Malonzo as his running mate. Echiverri also filed a disqualification case against Malonzo. Jeverly T. Salvatierra

QC all set for automated polls

QUEZON CITY, which has the largest number of voters in the country, is ready for the first-ever automated elections in May. "We are prepared and based on the recent mock election, we can say [we are ready]," city election officer Ronald Allan Sanco told the Inquirer. Sanco accompanied by Quezon City police director, Chief Supt. Elmo San Diego, inspected various checkpoints set up in the city on Monday evening in preparation for yesterday's start of the campaign period for national positions. Nancy C. Carvajal

WORLD BRIEFS

5 years in jail for China activist

BEIJING — A Chinese court on Tuesday sentenced an activist who investigated the deaths of thousands of schoolchildren in the country's massive 2008 earthquake to five years in jail for inciting subversion of state power. The man's lawyer said. The United States deplored the sentence handed down to Tan Zuoren by a court in southwestern Sichuan province, saying such convictions were politically motivated and urging China to immediately release the activist and others similarly prosecuted. AP

Another storm headed for Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON — A second major snowstorm in less than a week was blowing on Tuesday toward the Mid-Atlantic region of the US with more flights expected to be canceled. Plows still hadn't touched some roads, utility workers were struggling to restore power and drivers were in short supply. Forecasters predicted the snow would start on Tuesday afternoon and continue into Wednesday, along with wicked winds. AP

N. Korea sends nuke envoy to Beijing

SEOUL — North Korea's Kim Jong-il reportedly dispatched his top nuclear envoy to Beijing on Tuesday to discuss restarting nuclear disarmament talks, a day after pledging Pyongyang's commitment to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. Kim made the clear statement people during a meeting on Monday with a high-level envoy from Beijing at the start of a week of diplomacy designed to get the six-nation nuclear talks back on track. A high-level United Nations envoy also flew to Pyongyang on Tuesday for a four-day trip. AP

Iran offers to stop nuke enrichment

TEHRAN — The head of Iran's atomic agency said the Islamic Republic would not enrich uranium to a higher level if the West provides the fuel it needs for the Tehran research reactor. Iran's last-ditch enrichment gambit stockpile of uranium to 20 percent on Tuesday, in a move sure to antagonize Western nations who fear that the process of enrichment could eventually yield materials for a nuclear weapon. AP

Ex-general cut off after arrest

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's defeated presidential candidate and former army chief has been cut off from family and friends after being arrested for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government while serving as Army commander. His wife said on Tuesday. The government says Gen. Sarath Fonseka, who as the top general helped defeat the Tamil Tiger rebels last May, will be court-martialed for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government after serving as the head of the army. AP

Ukraine's Tymoshenko to challenge vote

KIEV — Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has refused to concede the presidential race to opposition leader Viktor Yanukovych and plans to legally challenge the results, Ukrainian and Russian media reported on Tuesday. Tymoshenko's bid officials with her party would build "major campaign" the legitimacy of Sunday's runoff election. AP

Avalanches kill 28, strands 1,500

KABUL — Avalanches and mountain snow north of Kabul have killed at least 28 people, with another 1,500 stranded in their vehicles on snowblocked roads, Afghan officials said on Tuesday. The Afghan defense ministry released a statement saying another 10 people have been injured and 1,500 others were stranded in the mountains. Local government officials said they had dug out those trapped in the snow. The avalanches took place on Monday following heavy snows in the Salang Pass that links the Afghan capital with the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. AP

Year of the Tiger won't be Tiger's year, seers predict

HONG KONG — IT'S THE YEAR OF THE Tiger, but Chinese fortune tellers say it'll be a rough ride for the world's most famous one: disgraced golfer Tiger Woods.

Golden pendulum-swing times for United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, turmoil in the financial markets, spikes in petroleum and uranium and a storm cloud over the United States President Barack Obama.

Under the school of feng shui — the traditional Chinese practice of predicting fortunes through dates and elemental Chinese forces — the year 2010 is ruled by yin. It is also associated with the negative element of metal, wood, disaster and fire.

Metal is a symbol of righteous action — like waging war. Disaster and fire symbolize instability, while wood feeds the fire.

It's a recipe for geopolitical tensions and drastic weather movements, according to feng shui experts.

"People will try to take on the strong and help the weak. They will try to help their fellow brothers. They will help friends who are being bullied. This year will be more violent," Sheng Kung Hong chief adviser Raymond Lo says, noting that the previous Year of the Tiger coincided with world war 1974 — the year the Gang of Four broke out.

Fellow Hong Kong soothsayers Chow Hon-ming expects more terrorist attacks.

Fires and explosions are more likely in the coming year, Lo said, also warning that Iran and North Korea may step up their nuclear ambitions.

Kuala Lumpur-based Tup Itoh Chu urges people to beware of "unexpected, unknown men" "unsolved violent accidents" like car crashes, armed robbery and industrial accidents.

Bankers will remain topsy-turvy as the world recovers from the US financial crisis, but on balance they will post decent results, the fortunetellers say.

The world's best-known "tiger" — American golfer Tiger Woods — actually isn't a tiger in a zodiacy according to the lunar calendar. Born Dec. 30, 1975, the 34-time major winner is a rabbit.

But Woods' birth date is associated with metal, which clashes with the presence of metal in this coming lunar year. In after admitting to cheating on his wife and taking an indefinite break from golf in December, the 34-year-old can expect more personal trouble this year, practitioners say.

"His long term fortune is on the decline," Lo says.

A SALUTE-LADY wears a tiger-shaped balloon at a lunar new year market in Hong Kong. AP/File

As for Obama, there are differing interpretations. The disastrous president's birthday is Aug. 4, 1961, making him an ox. According to Lo, the tiger is a lucky "noble-man" for people born in years ending in the digit "1" and Obama's birth date is associated with the natural element of earth, which is complementary with metal because nine symbolizes from the earth.

"He will shine with flying colors," Lo says, adding that the American leader will become more aggressive in pushing his agenda. "His foreign policy may be tougher."

Yap disagrees, saying that the presence of thunder and fire would mostly represent the "turmoil of the king" — a metaphor for a fierce battle for leadership.

The Mandarin calls the fire of the Tiger a burning point for the Democrat, whose path for health care reform was threatened by the recent election of a Republican senator in Massachusetts that denied Democrats a 60-vote majority in the chamber.

"He will have a bloody hard time this year. If he survives this year, the rest of his term will be no problem. This is a crazy year," Yap says. AP

Israel 'savior' accused of enslaving women

JERUSALEM — THE WOMEN DETAINED his name and portrait on their bodies and gave their children his name — Sorotzkin.

They ignored the branded, cast-time leader in it' he were royalty, treated his murderers (rough) where leader, once him ever messages with them, were wandering and slept with him at his bidding.

They fawned over weapon and swollen payments to him and lived in cramped, subdivided Tel Aviv apartments with the children they bore him. According to police, he fathered many of his own daughters' children.

The jobless man, 60-year-old Gad Ben-ezra, enslave their cause to Hebrew for "Savior" — is now sitting in a Tel Aviv jail, imprisoned by police of enslaving a cult-like harem of at least 17 women and 37 children.

Ben-ezra, who has lived this way for two decades, denies any wrongdoing.

Ben-ezra's alleged harem of unemployed, brand-lifestyle lovers gripped board and have become fodder for newspapers and talk shows.

Here he managed to lure so many young women and live this way so long in full view of authorities remains a mystery.

"I'm not their Messiah, I'm not their savior. I'm just good to them," Ben-ezra told in a rare statement to Israel television last year.

Police, however, said they uncovered details on Ben-ezra when the children were in school because they were afraid their mothers might beat them if they were at home or the time.

According to police, his lawyer and some, lawyer from his relatives, began take on his "extended family" through closed-circuit TV and found them for violating orders that included modest dress and a ban on unsanctioned telephone calls.

"He doesn't live like you or me. He lives differently, and the fact that the women accepted it and were proud of it gave him the legitimacy that it was okay, that it was good for them," said his court-appointed lawyer, Shlomtzion Cohen.

Cops break up harem

Police broke up the harem on Jan. 13, taking the children and women to various shelter. Police investigating Ben-ezra on suspicion of rape, incest, rape and incest have until Friday to charge him or else his detention may end.

In an Israeli television documentary aired last year, Ben-ezra said the women were drawn to him because he was "perfect" and had "all the qualities that a

ART ICON: Filmmaker Dani Menkin ... 'I'm just good to them.'

woman wants."

But Asher Weisman, a private investigator whose company was hired by parents to extricate their daughter from the clan, said their fixation proved an troubled young women.

Some of his women visited doctors, counselors and friends to join the harem. Ben-ezra would go tutoring his others in free hour Tel Aviv malls, Weisman said.

He said a private investigation he sent to infiltrate the harem was briefly shaken after four encounters with Ben-ezra.

"He looked hurt in the eye for about six seconds, 'what she felt like she was being crushed, it was a kind of hypnosis," Weisman said.

The investigation, who spent a month inside the clan, reported to Weisman that the women "talked about themselves if he were a god and the biggest honor is to spend the night with him."

Ambivalent

Now freed from Ben-ezra's grasp, the women were divided over whether they were enslaved or living an unconventional way of life with a unique kind of love.

Dorna Pardigovsky was taken into the fold four and a half years ago when she was 22, unmarried and pregnant with another man's child. From day one, she said, life with him was "like living in a prison" — but she had nowhere else to go.

"Today I'm free to wear jeans, talk to my parents, meet friends, buy myself a cup of coffee without getting God's permission," said Bendelstein, who had a "God" tattoo peeking out over her tube-top neckline.

"I'm not the same woman who left a month ago and time as evolution Shift saying, 'I want to remind you that I'm evolving, and if it works out...It's not much like to be with you and carry your seed in my womb. Love, you forever, your wife-slave," she wrote to a newspaper account of her life with Ben-ezra.

Something awry

In interviews with Israeli media, other women spoke wistfully about Ben-ezra. But they also acknowledged there might have been something awry about the arrangement.

One of the women, 30-year-old Shari Haverkit who studied mechanical engineering, lived with Ben-ezra for 11 years. Like others among his women, she donated breasts for a living, donated the seed to her garb that met his definition of modesty and wore a wedding band — though neither she nor the others were legally married to Ben-ezra.

Haverkit told Channel 2 TV that Ben-ezra was on "mourning" and functioning man. But others pressed, she allowed that the life she lived could indeed be characterized as "enslavement."

7-month probe

Three of Ben-ezra's women brought new complaints to welfare authorities over the summer, sparking a seven-month investigation that led to his arrest.

A police spokesperson described the conditions in the women's apartments as "really terrible," with mattresses on the floor and as many as 10 women and 30 children residing in a two- or three-bedroom flat.

Police suspect Ben-ez's clan is even bigger than they know. According to his defense attorney, Ben-ez claims to have more than 30 women and nearly 100 children kept in various apartments in the Tel Aviv area — along with one legal wife who is not part of the group.

Police say the evidence against Ben-ez includes hundreds of computer disks he kept in the Tel Aviv flat where he lived alone and took his women for sexual encounters.

A surveillance system allowed him to monitor the goings-on in a Tel Aviv building where he kept multiple apartments. AP

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The WORLD
Editor Lawrence B. Quncio

Jackson doc out on bail

LOS ANGELES—MICHAEL JACKSON'S DOCTOR returns to court in April to find out the date for the next major step in the case—a proceeding that will reveal for the first time the evidence the prosecution believes will show his "gross negligence" was the direct cause of the pop star's death.

Dr. Conrad Murray pleaded not guilty on Monday to a charge of involuntary manslaughter and a judge released him on $75,000 bail.

Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz ordered Murray to turn in his passport and said he could travel within the United States, but not to any foreign country. The prosecution had suggested he might flee in his native Grenada or to Trinidad where his son lives.

Murray was ordered to return on April 9 to have another date set for his preliminary hearing. That proceeding, a virtual mini-trial, will disclose the evidence prosecutors maintain will demonstrate Murray's "gross negligence."

Murray is accused of giving Jackson a fatal dose of an anesthetic to help him sleep. Jackson died on June 25, 2009. If convicted, the doctor could face up to four years in prison.

Jackson said Murray he was convicting his practice of medicine, having lost from using any anesthetic agent, specifically the drug propofol which a coroner's report found was the cause of Jackson's death with other drugs as contributing factors.

"I don't want you violating people," the judge said.

Immediately after the hearing, Latoya Jackson issued a statement saying she believed her brother had been murdered and that others besides Murray were involved in his death.

"I will continue to fight until all of the proper individuals are brought forth and justice is served," Latoya said. She was in court along with siblings Jermaine, Jermaine, Tito, Jackie and Randy.

Her father Joe Jackson expressed the same views on Monday night in an interview on Larry King Live and claimed that his son believed he was going to be murdered. He did not elaborate.

As he left the courtroom, the family patriarch said, "We need justice."

Outside the Los Angeles airport area courthouse, about 50 Michael Jackson fans carried large photographs of the superstar and signs urging, "Justice for Michael." Many were the same fans who had stood vigil during the 2005 trial at which Jackson was acquitted of child molestation. Some shouted "murderer" when Murray was brought in court.

Murray recently reopened his office in Houston after months in which he charged while his bills piled up.

A representative of the state attorney general's office said the California Medical Board would be filing a motion to revoke Murray's medical license to practice in California while he is incarcerated.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren tried to convince the judge to impose a high bail of $500,000. He said in his motion that although Murray had no criminal record, he had violated court orders involving child support payments and "leads an irresponsible and financially unstable life." AP

INVITATION TO BID

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Deadly rains threaten Haitians

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—Survivors of Haiti's catastrophic earthquake have had one saving grace: There's been no significant rain since the disaster that wasn't last.

The rainy season in Haiti is deadly even in a good year. Now, in a devastated capital city, the early spring rains threaten to cause landslides and bring about health problems in the makeshift camps where more than 300,000 people are living.

Rain is already falling in some parts of the country, but Haiti's shattered capital, where most of the quake damage occurred, has been spared so far—a rarity for this time of year, when afternoon showers are common. Steady rains could come in soon in the rest of the month, and forecasters nearby begin in June.

Workers are racing to move victims outside of flood plains and into tents. They are also trying to clear tons of debris from rooftops, roads and riverbeds, so rain does not ruin the survivors' encampments into breeding grounds for disease. AP

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Editor Raul G. Manuela ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Election candidates!
LED Wall
BRAIN
Sales & Rentals

Tax court split on Shell's bid to stop import seizure

Oil tanks in Batangas being sealed by Customs

By Amy R. Remo

THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS IS SPLIT ON WHETHER or not to issue the suspension order sought by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. to stop the Bureau of Customs from seizing the oil company's oil imports.

According to Shell legal counsel John Balanquit, the split in the tax court's decision was expected to result in the "unlawful confiscation of Shell's importations."

"This will have dire consequences not only for Shell but for the national economy," he stressed.

A source said that tanks of Shell at its Batangas refinery were already being sealed yesterday by Customs personnel for eventual seizure.

In a four-page resolution issued yesterday, Justice Erlinda Uy and Associate Justice Victorino signed

FULL STORY B1

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New investor group buys LMG Chemicals for ₱354M

By Doris C. Dumlao

A LITTLE KNOWN LOCAL HOLDing company, Jomaco Inc., has acquired a 99.8-percent stake in publicly-listed industrial chemical manufacturer LMG Chemicals Corp. for P353.67 million.

The block was jointly sold by Chemoil Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Chemphil) and 20/60Holdings Corp. at P1.43 a share. The transaction left only a very little public float not yet owned by Jomaco.

Trading on LMG was halted until 10 a.m. yesterday at the Philippine Stock Exchange to allow the investing public to weigh the impact of the transaction.

This implied the sale of 192 million shares at a slight premium to the P1.08 closing price on March 4, 2004, when LMG shares were last traded.

Scenario purchase price was higher than an aborted deal with Singapore-based real estate company LCL Development, which earlier was set to buy the same stake at P1.27 a share. LCL however, declined to its commitment to buy the block.

In 2007, LMG underwent a major corporate restructuring after transferring its assets and liabilities to its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Chemphil Manufacturing Corp. and LMG Land Development Corp. It transferred its acid plant and tank farm properties to its remaining the acid plant and tank farm operations into traditional building companies for better management and monitoring.

Chemphil, for its part, plans to use the sales proceeds to pay debt servicing and working capital requirements. The company had earlier disclosed plans to declare dividends "at the appropriate time."

From January to September last year, LMG booked a net loss attributable to majority shareholders of P30.6 million, a reversal of the P321.6 million in net profit in the same period a year ago. *With a report from Amea Jean*

Sellers to use proceeds to pare down debt

Shell unit to spend $85M in RP oil project

By Amy R. Remo

SHELL PHILIPPINES EXPLORation is spending about $85 million to drill five new exploration wells within its petroleum service contracts in offshore Palawan.

According to SPEX managing director Sebastian C. Quimosing Jr., one of the exploration wells would be drilled by March or April within the Camago prospect, which is covered by Service Contract 58.

Another well will be drilled by May or June within the Silangan prospect in SC58.

Quimosing explained that the Camago drilling would be part of the second phase of development of the Malampaya project. Following the drillings, SPEX expects to arrive at a final investment decision by 2011, he added.

The Malampaya consortium is composed of Shell Philippines and Chevron Malampaya LLC, each with a 45-percent stake, and PNOC Exploration Corp., with a 10-percent stake.

The $4.5-billion Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project supplies natural gas to the 1,200-MW Ilijan plant of Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco); 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo plants, all in Batangas.

The gas field is 2,700 feet deep in the waters off Palawan, with the natural gas being pumped out to a processing plant and is transported by tankers to Batangas to fuel the three power facilities.

For SC 46, SPEX holds a 55-percent stake, Korean Foreign Petroleum Co. has a 26-percent interest, and South China Resources, 15 percent.

Under the contract, the SC 46 consortium members have committed to invest at least $24 million over a seven-year period within the area. It will use the amount to conduct seismic and exploration work in the area with an option to drill during the same timeframe.

In the event of a commercial discovery of petroleum, the contract also included a 25-year development term.

The service contract area, which covers a relatively unexplored area spanning a million hectares, was carved by the Department of Energy as one of the promising sites for petroleum exploration as identified by the Philippine Petroleum Resource Assessment Project Study conducted by the DOE and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Easycall profit dips; sets rights offer

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PROFITS OF FOREIGN-FACED INCUMBENT local exchange carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell two digits in 2009 from the year before, as subscribers lowered their investment in a local business process outsourcing (BPO) giant.

In a disclosure, Easycall said it posted a net income of P1.5 million in 2009, 67 percent lower than the P5.09 million the company made in 2008.

"The decrease was primarily due to the [decline] in other income and other/income (loss) realized's [lower] net income for 2009 where Easycall owns 51.8-percent equity," the company said in its disclosure.

About P1.27 million of Easycall's profit came from its share in eTelecharge's income, or 79 percent lower than a year earlier.

Despite making less money, Easycall said its board approved a stock rights offering to raise P500 million to fund the expansion of its broadband internet business.

Under the offer, the company plans to give existing shareholders the right to buy one common share for every three shares they hold.

"The corresponding use of the proceeds shall be for the expansion and enhancement of the company's nationwide broadband wireless network and its other data communications services," the company said.

This will be on top of the P46.17 million the company plans to raise through a private placement from local technology firm Global E-Business Solutions Inc. This will bring Global E-Business's stake in Easycall up to 72 percent from the previous 60 percent.

The stock rights offer and the private placement, which is scheduled for this April, will bring the company's paid-up capital to P300 million.

Easycall was originally organized as a telecommunications firm in 1989, pioneering the use of pagers in the country.

Pacifica to bid for power projects

PUBLICLY LISTED PACIFICA INC. plans to bid for two more independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contracts as well as other government-owned power plants across the country.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pacifica said that it must have an acquiring the IPPA contracts for the 650-megawatt (MW) Malaya oil-fired power plant, which is located in Pililia, Rizal, and for the Unified Leyte Geothermal Complex, which consists of the 125-megawatt Upper Mahiao, 232-MW Mahiao, 180-MW Mahiao/Mahiao and the 51-MW optimization plants, and other power facilities as well.

Pacifica said its board of directors approved on Monday the company's participation in Bayan Holdings to be held by Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

In the same meeting, the board has also approved the company's participation in the bidding for the IPPA contract for the 1,200-MW Ilijan plant and the Subic power plant in Batangas City.

PSALM has set the bidding for the Ilijan IPPA on April 16. The IPPA contracts for the Unified Leyte and the Malaya power facilities are scheduled to be auctioned within the year.

The company has also designated Marvee M. Espejo as the "duly authorized representative of Pacifica Inc."

The bidding for the IPPAs of Unified Leyte, Malaya and Ilijan forms the third batch of contracts to be offered to the private sector for management. IPPs are currently contracted to supply electricity to state-run Napocor.

When management of IPP contracts is turned over to the private sector, the winning bidders will operate and maintain the plants of the government in the IPP power plants.

In December last year, Pacifica also submitted an offer to acquire the IPPA contracts for the 20-MW Benguet mini-hydro, 245-MW San Roque multipurpose hydroelectric power plant in Pangasinan and the 70-MW Binga hydroelectric power plant in Benguet.

The company, however, failed to match the higher offers of the other bidders. Amy R. Remo

Stocks continue to weaken on Wall Street slide

LOOSE STOCKS PLUMMETED FOR the yesterday following the Wall Street bloodbath that has been created by continued concerns over fiscally troubled European nations.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange (S-H-46.39 points to close at 2,707.61 points as investors sold down blue chips amid a weak global investment.

The main index was dragged down by the mining/oil, industrial, industrial and financial sectors, which fell 3.5 percent, 0.3 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively. All the currencies were down, weighed down by the gloomy overnight sentiment in Wall Street as the Dow Jones Industrial Average followed below the crucial 10,000 mark for the first time since November.

There were 95 decliners as against only 19 advancers and 40 unchanged stocks. Value turnover amounted to P2.3 billion.

The market's slump was led by local telecommunication giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Ayala Corp., Globe Telecom, Energy Development Corp., Metro Land Inc. and First Gen Corp. Doris C. Dumlao

Buyers beware

Biz Buzz

By the staff

THE PRICE'S RISING MOMENTUM OF MANILA Golf and Country Club members has been reduced by at least one prominent personality after businessman Benjamin Bitanga was "removed" from the club's group last month.

The termination of Bitanga's membership was effected even if it was discovered last year that a Manila Golf share he had sold to the brother of businessman Bernardino Siy was, in fact, allocated as collateral for a secured loan from Metrobank.

According to our source, Bitanga had been using a "named" Manila Golf share while supposedly "refusing" to settle the foreclosure issue with the club.

Biz Buzz spoke with Manila Golf officials today and learned that our source, explaining that there was "misrepresentation" when the businessman sold the share—which now goes for around P10 million each—"without disclosing that it had an existing encumbrance."

"There were two encumbrances, and only one had been cleared by the time of the sale," a lawyer for the group said, adding that this was uncovered around August of last year.

He said Bitanga was given until Dec. 31, 2009 to correct the situation, either by settling the outstanding claims or providing a security deposit or bond.

"We gave him four months and none of those were fulfilled," the group's lawyer said. "So we had no choice."

Meanwhile, the buyer of the golf share is now a happy golfing and playing member.

What happened to the creditor who had a claim on the share? "The creditor must now go after Bitanga," the lawyer said. — Dennis G. Jaena

Meralco flip is MVP

IF THE DMCI-STI group sells the 4 percent stake in Manila Electric Co. that it had bought from the state-owned Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Manuel V. Pangilinan, it may be because the block had already been "pledged" to MVP's group.

Industry sources claim the transaction was structured in such a way that ultimate ownership of the old GSIS block would accrue to MVP's group, which will then be able to lay claim to a solid majority voting block in the country's largest power retailer (at around 52 percent, together with the 4 percent diluted interest).

According to the Investment prospectus, Meralco STI acquired the Meralco block via a securities lent bearing the transaction contracts of MVP's financial muscle, with the shares expected to eventually fall into the PLDT chair's hands — perhaps when calls for a transfer offer to shareholders have dried down.

The Meralco STI group is expected to reap the economic benefits from the minority Meralco block, such as the cash dividends alongside higher earnings, even if the group bought in quite late in the merger and acquisition phase.

Everyone is awaiting the next move of the San Miguel/Global 5800 block, which has been sidelined by MVP's aggressive moves to cement control of the power distribution utility.

Meanwhile, the stake acquired by the Tanco/STI group in geothermal power circuit joined Energy Development Corp. is another story.

With EDC rated as a "buy" by many analysts, alongside the rosy outlook on renewable energy, the market expects the STI/Tanco group to hold on to the newly acquired stake in EDC for

Japan car firm undertakes massive recall

437,000 Toyota hybrid vehicles affected worldwide

TOKYO—TOYOTA SAYS IT IS recalling about 437,000 Prius and other hybrid vehicles worldwide to fix brake problems—the latest in a string of product recalls by the maker of the world's largest automaker.

"I apologize for causing trouble and worries for many customers over the quality and safety of Toyota," President Akio Toyoda said at a press conference Tuesday in Tokyo.

"We sincerely acknowledge safety concerns from our customers," he said. "We have decided to recall as we regard safety for our customers as our foremost priority."

The recall is the latest blow to Toyota Motor Corp., which is in the midst of recalling more than 7 million vehicles worldwide because of problems with floor mats, which can trap gas pedals, and faulty gas pedals that are slow to return to the position. The 2010 Prius wasn't part of those recalls.

There have been about 200 complaints in Japan and the US about a delay when the brakes in the Prius curve pressed in cold conditions and on bumpy roads. The delay doesn't indicate a brake failure. The company says the problem can be fixed in 40 minutes with new software that overrides the controls of the antilock brakes.

Toyota officials went to Japan's transport ministry earlier Tuesday to formally notify officials the automaker is recalling the 2010 Prius gas-electric hybrid—the world's top-selling hybrid car. The automaker is also recalling two other hybrid models in Japan, the Lexus HS250h sedan, sold in the US and Japan, and the Aqua, which is sold only in Japan.

US politics look to be playing a role in Washington's harsh response to safety problems hamstringing Toyota's reputation, but no one is pointing a finger at the Japanese government lawmakers.

That's in large part because, while Toyota Motor Corp. as No. 1 seems an easy target, Japan firms overall are no longer seen as the competitive threat that once spurred US lawmakers.

US safety authorities and members of the administration have assured Toyota of responding too directly to problems related to unacceleration amid fears that have been linked to up to 19 deaths in the US over the past decade. Agriculture Secretary Ray LaHood has said he has confidence in Toyota's ability to fix the problem.

But reverse outside attitudes and the Toyota debt crisis have given US lawmakers no leniency, critics who argue that Islamic investments would have held up better if there were not such a close resemblance between Islamic and conventional debt.

As Islamic scholars are reviewing practices such as ostensibly risk-sharing agreements and monetary purchase and resale financing, as they push for the industry to focus more on the Islamic principles of risk-sharing and limiting based on the real economy.

"The industry's more hands on in 2009 will lead to a different approach to risk by the investor base. The shift to a different approach will change the landscape of Islamic banking," said Stefan Iben, JPMorgan's Bahrain-based Islamic structuring head.

The push to reform Islamic finance gained pace even before Dubai's crisis erupted last November, and intensified because of worries that Dubbed, issuer of the world's largest Islamic bond, would default during debt restructuring at some Dubai state-owned companies.

"People are actually concerned about the credibility of Islamic finance," said Mansur Khan, a Dubai-based partner at lawyers Simmons & Simmons.

"What has happened according to some scholars I've spoken to is that investment has moved too far in the direction of conventional debt and that equity based finance (eg, has been left behind)—it's like a pendulum they want to swing back."

Reuters

A TOYOTA Prius hybrid is parked in front of the Toyota Motor Corp. headquarters in Aichi Prefecture, front, Toyota president Akio Toyoda makes an apology during a news conference in Tokyo. AFP PHOTO

US shareholders sue No. 1 automaker

LOS ANGELES—TOYOTA FACED its first US class action lawsuit stemming from complaints of faulty brakes in its top-selling Prius vehicle and from executives' claiming they were minimal about problems with unintended acceleration in other models.

Litigation mounted as the Japanese automaker prepared to follow global recalls of some 8 million vehicles for repairs to fix floor mats and sticky gas pedals with yet another recall to deal with braking problems in the new Prius model.

A suit filed on Monday on behalf of US shareholders accuses Toyota Motor Corp of issuing "materially false and misleading statements" about its "operations, its business and financial results and outlook."

The suit, filed in US District Court in Los Angeles, said the car company "misled investors by failing to disclose that there was a major design defect in Toyota's acceleration system."

The suit covers buyers of publicly traded Toyota stock, between Aug. 4, 2009, and Feb. 2, 2010.

Reuters

Job seekers in North Dakota turn homeless

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA ...More than almost any other US state, North Dakota has escaped the worst effects of the country's recession, but with its good fortune has come an unanticipated problem: homelessness, as desperate job seekers flow into the largely rural state looking for work.

Shelters are full statewide, and soup kitchens are feeding as many as they can. Some homeless newcomers are living in cars, but as temperatures linger below freezing, many are bedding with acquaintances to avoid freezing.

Many of the job seekers come to North Dakota without resources, lured by jobs or housing, said Mark McLeod, executive director of the Minot Area Homeless Coalition. They arrive to find they are unqualified for the work that exists, or if they land a job, they can't get housing, which is scarce.

"If you get a rural area past head, stay there," McLeod advised. "We want people to come to North Dakota, but we don't want people coming here and not being able to survive."

Most don't understand how expensive it is to live in many areas now, he said. "For your basic bill in a freezer for five minutes—and some in North Dakota."

Most of North Dakota's smaller cities and towns lack shelters and other services for the homeless, so they've become magnets for those who may be homeless but want somewhere to go, a widespread problem before.

Last year, 937 homeless people were counted in a survey that recorded people encountered by volunteers in a single night, said Robert Carlson, executive director of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. That was an 18-percent increase from the previous year's count of 806. This year's figures aren't yet available.

The Bismarck area has about 8,000 unfilled jobs and the lowest jobless rate of any state, at about 3 percent.

AP

Dubai crisis adds pressure on Islamic finance

ELALA LUMPUR/MANAMA... The global financial crisis has intensified a push for Islamic finance to "return to its roots" and ensure that more original, conventional banking, but some warn that more originality could threaten investors.

Many bankers fear radical reforms to the industry could make products less attractive to investors who have become reluctant to take on fresh risk and uncertainty in the wake of the crisis.

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Reuters

China firm lists US equity stakes worth $9.63B

BEIJING—CHINA INVESTMENT CORP, the country's $300 billion sovereign wealth fund, has made its biggest US equity bets in initial investments it has disclosed.

A filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission detailed equity holdings in US listed companies and funds worth $9.63 billion at the end of 2009.

About a quarter of the investments is in exchange-traded funds, giving CIC exposure to markets in Europe, Asia and emerging markets as a low-cost.

The filing, made last Friday is not exhaustive. It does not include investments entrusted to outside fund managers or CIC's stake in private equity house Blackstone.

CIC paid $3 billion for a 10 percent stake in Blackstone in 2007 and bought more shares in 2008.

The biggest holding listed in the SEC filing, worth $3.34 billion, was in Canadian miner Teck Resources Ltd.

Among US holdings, CIC declared a stake of $6.37 billion in Morgan Stanley and a percentage worth $713.6 million in holding in BlackRock Inc., the world's largest independent money manager.

CIC disclosed stakes, mostly small, in more than 60 companies, including $408 million in the US-traded stock of Brazilian miner Vale SA, $291.8 million in Citigroup, $9 million in Coca-Cola Co., $6.2 million in Apple Inc., and $4.2 million in News Corp.

CIC has been investing extensively in resources and commodities since 2009, mainly because there is still plenty of room for price gains in these sectors, said Lou Jiwei, chief of CIC.

Reuters

Asian stocks mixed after Wall Street decline

HELSINKI—ASIAN STOCKS WERE mixed Tuesday following Wall Street's decline on lingering worries about high European debt levels.

Tokyo and Sydney were down while Shanghai and Hong Kong gained. Oil prices lingered below $72 a barrel while the dollar gained against the yen and dipped versus the euro.

The lackluster performance in regional markets came after the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Monday fell 30,000 for the first time in three months on concerns that debt problems in weaker European economies, especially Greece, might spark problems for the global financial system.

"The overriding concern is Greece and what that means in a global sense," said Richy Sidley, senior strategist at Newedge Group in Hong Kong.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 stock average lost 0.1 percent, or 20.07 points, to 9,903.75 while Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 declined 0.4 percent, or 16.3, to 4,389.1.

China's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.3 percent to 3,078.46 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was up 0.2 percent, or 35.56, at 19,586.19. South Korea's Kospi rose 0.9 percent, or 14.38, to 1,567.17.

Elsewhere, benchmarks in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines fell. Markets in Singapore, Taiwan and India eked out modest gains.

Investors are wary that debt problems in Greece, a relatively small part of the European economy, could spread to the rest of the 16-nation bloc that uses the euro. Other countries facing searched deficits include Portugal and Spain.

Asian stocks are so sensitive to the health of Western export and financial markets that analysts say even regional developments as severe as Toyota Motor Corp.'s struggles with a spate of safety problems have little impact.

Trading in China has been listless this week as investors hesitate down ahead of a weeklong closure of mainland markets for next week's Lunar New Year holiday.

The Dow fell 102.84, or 1 percent, to 9,908.59. On Thursday, the Dow traded below the symbolic barrier of 10,000 for the first time since November. It hadn't closed below that mark since July.

Oil prices hovered below $72 a barrel in Asia with benchmark crude for March delivery down 11 cents at $71.78.

AP

From page B3

Tax court split on Shell's bid to stop import seizure

From page B3

that "the damage to (Shell's) property rights must, in the meantime, take a back seat to the paramount need of the state for funds to sustain government functions. Compared to the damage to the state which may be caused by reduced financial resources, the damage to (Shell) is negligible."

However, Presiding Justice Ernesto Acosta, the most senior member of the division hearing the case, rendered a 13-page dissenting opinion saying that "(Shell) has a right to be protected during the pendency of the case."

Acosta explained that "the threatened action of (the BOC) is damaging not only to (Shell's) interests but also to the whole community considering the undesirable effects of rising prices of basic consumer needs, possible unemployment of a large number of people and extinguishment of opportunities for businesses dependent on (Shell's) operations."

Customs had planned to seize part of Shell's imports to offset the P7.2 billion in alleged unpaid excise taxes, which the oil company refused to pay as it insisted that imported raw materials for its Tabangao refinery operations should not be subjected to any excise taxes.

Shell is disputing before the special tax court the P7.34 billion tax assessment it slapped by Customs on Shell importations of catalytic cracked gasoline (CCG) and light catalytic cracked gasoline (LCCG) from 2004-2009.

In December last year, Shell was able to secure from the tax court a 60-day temporary restraining order (TRO) barring Customs from seizing the imports. The TRO lapsed yesterday.

"It is unfortunate that this split in the CTA clearly results to unlawful double taxation. Apart from the economic disruption that will be caused by the seizure, the long term consequence of the ruling is that manufacturing in the country will be discouraged and the security of our energy supply will be placed at great risk due to the eventual closure of the Batangas refinery," Baldomero said.

Shell had said that the seizure of future shipments could lead to the closure of its Batangas refinery, which employs 822 workers, and losses of P11 billion to cover a month.

With no products to sell, Shell's 959 retail stations would eventually shut down. Shell's dealers interviewed for 34 percent of the market as of June last year. These stations employ nearly 17,000 daily wage earners who also stand to lose their jobs in a month of the seizure.

Apart from Shell's 27.7 percent market share, on average in the retail segment, Petron garners 33 percent of the fuel requirements of power plants, including the state-owned National Power Corp.'s facilities, 37.2 percent of the entire aviation fuel market, 24.6 percent of the marine transport market, and 70.2 percent of the industrial fuel segment by consumers engaged in machinery.

Edgar Chua, Shell country chair, said that the oil company had been advised by its head office that "if we don't get suspension order and (if Customs) will be permitted to seize imports, we will be forced to stop operations."

Rowena C. Dumlao

Biz Buzz

From page B3

a much longer time. Dovie C. Dumlao

Informant's rich reward

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the P7.4 billion tax levy being imposed by the government on the imports of Filipinas Shell has taken an unusual turn with "whistleblower" undertones.

According to our sources, a ranking government official—"well-connected, closely-related"—has staked a claim on the 20 percent reward that is mandated by the country's Tariff and Customs Code for whistleblowers and informants.

Given the government's expected revenue haul of P7.3 billion (assuming that the courts rule in the state's favor), this "informant" can expect to receive at least P1.45 billion as his reward.

The only problem is that this person is a high-ranking official who works closely with revenue-raising officials, according to our sources.

Can anyone spell "conflict of interest?"

Jhaime L. Lucas

Banking reshuffle

BIG BANK N.V. Manila branch managing director Cesar Zulueta will soon retire from the South Bound giant ahead of its global restructuring. On the other hand, former Chinatrust Commercial (Phils.) Bank treasurer Roland Arnaiz has pitched himself out of retirement to rejoin the treasury business through Asia growing Sterling Bank, the third bank of the Yu family.

Meanwhile, state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines is losing two young treasurers.—Mira Mananquil

and Bueta Unga Jr.

Mananquil, who heads the bank's treasury unit, has been pursued by Ayala Land Inc. for its formally Toyota dealership business on Buendia Ave. beginning March.

Unga, on the other hand, left at the end of January to join his wife in Dubai on a year-long fellowship stint in Singapore.

Rowena C. Dumlao

'09 Customs collection falls 19% short of goal

Import value declined by almost same rate

By Bernel W. Dominguez

COLLECTION OF IMPORT DUTIES fell short by P52 billion in 2009 as the value of inbound cargoes plunged by almost a fifth to P2.3 trillion, according to Customs Commissioner Napoleon C. Morales.

Morales said the Bureau of Customs netted in only P280 billion or 19 percent short of the target of P332 billion.

He added that the 2009 collection was also P90 billion or 15 percent lower than the P280 billion paid in 2008.

"The shortfall against the target and (year-ago) collection was consistent with the drop in the overall value of imports," Morales said.

The customs chief said the biggest drop was observed in oil importation, which decreased by 39 percent over the oil import value in 2008.

Morales said the value of non-dutiable imports also suffered, dropping 2/4 percent or P262 billion from 2008 figures, reflecting the decline in manufacturing output.

Citing BOC data, he further said that positive factors observed last year were not enough to offset "the nearly P72 billion revenue loss due to economic assumptions that did not materialize."

He said these positive factors include a stronger peso, higher tariff rates and lower deferred payments which Morales said summed up to some P19 billion in revenue gains.

"All factors considered, there were revenues of more than P1 billion attributed to collection efficiency of the bureau," Morales added.

He said such efficiency was the result of internal revenue measures rather than improved trade volume or certain levels of economic growth.

Economic managers expected the domestic economy to grow by between 2.8 percent and 3.8 percent in 2009, but the actual figure was 0.9 percent.

Morales said the BOC, which celebrated its 100th founding anniversary on Monday, was expected to further improve collection efficiency through ongoing reform efforts.

BPO company adds 2,100 seats

By Abigail L. Ho

RIDING THE EXPANDING BAHAYANIJOY business process outsourcing firm StarTek Inc. is adding another 2,100 seats in its operations, via a new site at the Ortigas Center.

StarTek's new site is located at the Stock Exchange building on Ortigas Avenue. It has capacity of 2,100 seats, almost twice as big as the company's 1,100-seat Makati facility.

The company said the new site should already reach full capacity within the first half, prompting its expansion into another location.

Recruitment for the new 15,000-square-meter site will take place in the next few months.

"The addition of a second location in the Philippines reinforces our global expansion plans," StarTek president and chief executive Larry Jones said in a statement.

In an earlier interview, he said the investment for StarTek's second site should be P8 million.

StarTek's Makati location provides mostly voice services, particularly basic customer care and technical support, and some order management.

The new site, Jones said, would offer the same services.

StarTek has about 9,000 seats spread over 20 sites in the United States, Canada, Costa Rica and the Philippines, with agents providing high-value voice and non-voice services to its clients.

These services include customer care, sales support, complex order processing, accounts receivable management, technical support and other industry-specific functions.

Data from the Business Processing Association of the Philippines showed the BPO sector last year posted $7.2 billion in revenues.

The contact center sector alone contributed $3 billion to the total.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltomnet@lto.gov.ph / Website: www.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1.	2nd SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS FOR NCR-A (That shall Include Motorcycle Helmets) CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING AND FIRING RANGE FOR CY 2010	- Php 16,000,000.00
2.	2nd SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS FOR LAMINATED DRIVER'S LICENSE CARD FOR CY 2010	- Php 70,000,000.00
3.	2nd SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS FOR PHILIPPINE DRIVER'S LICENSE SYSTEM (PHILDLS)	- Php 1,000,000.00

- FEBRUARY 17, 2010, 2:00 PM
- FEBRUARY 17, 2010, 2:00 PM
- FEBRUARY 17, 2010, 2:00 PM

1.	2nd SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS FOR NCR-A (That shall Include Motorcycle Helmets) CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING AND FIRING RANGE FOR CY 2010	- MARCH 2, 2010, 2:00 PM
2.	2nd SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS FOR LAMINATED DRIVER'S LICENSE CARD FOR CY 2010	- MARCH 2, 2010, 2:00 PM
3.	2nd SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS FOR PHILIPPINE DRIVER'S LICENSE SYSTEM (PHILDLS)	- MARCH 2, 2010, 2:00 PM

Cebu Pacific's top Wandering Juans

CEBU PACIFIC, THE COUNTRY'S LEADING low-cost carrier has finally declared which traveling tandems have won the winning discounts. Sony Dy, Michelle Ermine Galvez, and Renee Fernandez capped the top three prizes in the airline's Wandering Juans photo contest, along with a roster of travel goodies.

With lots notes of travelers illustrated by the net setting on Cebu's pristine beach, Sony's maritime photo landed hundreds of other entries and emerged the winner of the popular nights category. He will be thrilling his travel dreams on board CEB to be a set to capture more memorable moments. But there is the problem.

Well, it is being forced to his first overseas experience. "I've already been reading up on the Lion City, and I'll be taking my mask along with me. It will be the first time for both of us to travel out of the country and I plan to experience Singapore's culture, and visit its many interesting places."

Kiana topped the travelogue category with a series of photographs showcasing dynamic scenes of exotic lives body-painted performers in a festival, children leaping for joy to a kid smiling through the sea with his mamba. Her only love for teaching photographic prowess she's a new hire Wandering Juans. She's also earned for her an outing trip to Koh Samui.

Former part Michelle climbed the top CEB prize in the people category with her inspiring photo of a young boy in mid-air with a pair of yellow slippers and said his one of the Central march of the Honey Juan Wandering Juans. The picture-perfect shot gave Michelle the chance to visit Bangkok together with her parents. An avid traveler, she looks forward to adding Bangkok to her list of favorite hotspots, along with Hong Kong and some of the country's most popular haunts including Cebu and Manila.

"I'm very flattered that I won. The Wandering Juan photo contest is really about inspiring people to take more pictures of their trips so they get to make more memories," she relates.

As new wandering adventurers, Michelle takes her experience a notch higher with plans on capturing more memories in other destinations. "After Bangkok I really want to visit Korea and other countries, because there really are a lot of cultures to discover, new sights to see, and lot of unique things to experience."

With the winning entries posted on the contest website Wandering Juan.com, everyone can enjoy their journey and witness the many picture-perfect travel moments that other wandering Juans have experienced. Travelers CEB's lowest prices and fares and increasing number of destinations. Here travelers are able to visit breathtaking places, just like Bali's Wildlife, and Korea.

SM opens 5th and 6th GPC

SM SUPERMALL'S AGE setting 2010s and three Sun Cebu to attend the opening of the SM Mall of Asia, Cebu and SM Megamall. GPC or SM City North Edsa and SM Megamall. The SM and mall businesses a Global Power City Philippines (GPC). Ben Chi Sy-Coson, SM Mall will be financial of SM City North Edsa while Martin Romero and Francisco Lim Congsiong will give a thumbs of SM Megamall. Ang GPC is dubbing their hotel sister sites and SM's Global Pinoy Center can get their own personalized blocks of time. The GPC hotels double as a showcase for world-class products and services. Global Pinoys can now get their cards at the newly opened Global Pinoy Centers located at the SM Mall of Asia, SM City Pampanga, SM City Davao and SM City Iloilo. SM conceived of the Global Pinoy Program as a way of providing a way for the 10 million overseas Filipinos (OFWs) to their families. SM also targets to open 10 new Global Pinoy Centers in 10 new locations within the next year. Other SM Malls that will open a Global Pinoy Center this year are SM City Bacoor and SM City Pampanga. For more info, SM City Cebu (Asia 111 0888) or SM City Davao (Asia 296 1100).

DAR inaugurates P10 million irrigation facility system

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) through the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Project Phase II (ARIS II) has turned over with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to farmers of P10.2 million communal irrigation system (CIS) in the Bandarang Irrigators Association in Pangasinan's Bautista town. The ARIS II is funded by the Government of Japan under the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) in support to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Infrastructure would support services for the agrarian reform communities (ARC) with effective delivery time basis. Aside it is one of the highly encouraged projects under the agency's Official Development Assistance Chain, and has achieved a 40 percent accomplishment rate as to infrastructure development completed. The remaining 20 infrastructure components which includes 10 km irrigation and drainage facilities. 104 farm-to-market roads, 30 rehabilitation systems and 50 post-harvest facilities must be solar dryers, warehouses and agricultural extension and Monitoring and Evaluation. The irrigation system covers a total of 108 hectares of lowland riding, Tigbao and Banawang, Bautista town. The irrigation system is one of the 10 new 50 to 100 hectare or more to 50 to 99 hectare area that the irrigation was completed. With a grateful heart, the farmers' leaders headed by Pres. Gregorio M. Dadon II awarded the facility promising to utilize it for the benefit of everyone concerned. Over a hundred farmer beneficiaries benefit from it.

Cosmetologie 2010

THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL COSMETOLOGY Association (Pinac) has completed and held by Sunday to announce the awarding ceremony in the country's biggest and most international set on beauty – the Cosmetologie 2010 – Beauty, Wellness and Technologies. To be held Feb. 23 to 28, at the DMC Convention Center, the event will present the latest hair, make-up, fashion and wellness products and services. It will also feature some of the world's most beautiful and is a celebration of the world-class artistry of the Filipino stylists. The 2-day event promises a festival of its huge success, after its fabulous debut last year when it brought in more than 20,000 visitors into the show. Senators, to some of the most acclaimed stylists are scheduled. One of the most exciting attractions is Cosmetologie 2010's Grand Competition Independent of the Trade and Excellence Hair and Makeup Competitions. Each of its 6 finalist competitions is each professional and non-professional categories). Each of its finalists must brought and styling competitions to compete against – color, cuts, professionally cut, classic, creative judges, body transparent – making it the most prestigious and only theme can hope for. This is a national competition, attracting competitors from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. All interested participants can order or email cosmetologie@yahoo.com for more info or call Premier Events at 829-4563, 829-7303 or e-mail at info@pagpro.com. Limited admission and only members – only available at the door to ensure your safety also.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 901 Manguinao St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP'S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/establishment have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
CHINA YOUR RECRUITMENT SERVICES, INC. Unit 1001 Prime Metroplex Tower, Mayapa Ave., Barangay Looban, Pasay City	Jiangchun Lan Lady (P.R.C.) Korean	Operations Manager
BLUE DOT ACTIVE SOLUTIONS INC. #12 Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City	David Paul Dean British	Account Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 16/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Shaoshan Hu Chinese	Staff Manager
SBT INTERNATIONAL (MANILA), INC. Rm 301 Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Don Manuel Blvd., Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Myung Jae Cho Korean	Marketing Officer
OKURA KAS-SUKE JAPANESE RESTAURANT CORP. 4th Level Rm. 01, Mall of Asia, Makati City	Sunsoung Yoon Korean	Marketing Manager
JTC INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES) SERVICES, INC. ROOM 2105 PSE Tower I, Exchange Rd. cor. Ortigas Ave. Ext., Pasig City	Dawn Alabastro Australian	Marketing for International Relations
SMRC PHILIPPINES, INC. 28/F Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Masaru Sakata Japanese	Construction Manager
KIM LIM ON LINE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 2/F Standard Bldg., 1901 Taft Ave., Pasay City	Jeonin Lee Korean	Account Officer
JBA BUSINESS SERVICES, INC. Rm 1806 Eastwood Ave. Bldg., 160 Eastwood Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City	Joseph Roland Pilapil Italian	Sales Representative Customer Maintenance Technician Spare Parts
BAUSCHER+HASLER OFFSHORE DESIGN PHILIPPINE BRANCH OFFICE 2/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Frank P.M. Schellekens Belgian	Yacht Manager
BAUSCHER+HASLER OFFSHORE DESIGN PHILIPPINE BRANCH OFFICE 2/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Luuk Vandegrond Belgian	Technical Maintenance Superintendent
RUFO-RUFO PRODUCTIONS, INC. Unit 201 The Linden Suites, 37 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Hyoseung Cho Korean	Chief Executive Officer
TRINITY ASSET FINANCIAL INC. 3008 San Pedro St., Makati City	Ana Bautista Lady (Filipino) Korean	Operations Manager
CONTACTCENTER.COM INC. 108 Benchland Condo Bldg., 6767 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Sandip Rao Indian	Business Development Executive
CASPO INCORPORATED 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Suraj Nakarani Indonesian	Operations Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hendy Indonesian	Operations Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hernandes Ramos Indonesian	Operations Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hariyanto Sutiarto Indonesian	Operations Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Heru Indonesian	Operations Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ming Hung Chan Malaysian	Accounting Analyst
PEARL RESOURCE MINING CORPORATION c/o FINA-NAT Building, Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, ACE Ave. cor. Governor's Drive Rd., Salitran, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Hyung Hee Korean	Finance Manager
PEARL RESOURCE MINING CORPORATION c/o FINA-NAT Building, Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, ACE Ave. cor. Governor's Drive Rd., Salitran, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Sangwook Park Lady (Filipino) Korean	Marketing Manager
SHELL GAS AND POWER (ASIA) B.V. 22/F Joaquin Cino Corporate Tower, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Mahua Miss Regulen Thai	Team Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 16/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Jian Sun Chinese	Technology Manager
DONG SU KOREAN RESTAURANT UP Town Center, Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City	Yongsik Bae Korean	Chief Cook
ASIA KIDS PACIFIC MANILA INC. Unit 5-A Ayala Triangle Gardens Tower, Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Karen Dedoroy-D'Orey Canadian	Site Manager
CONTROL UNION PHILIPPINES INC. G/F Dawson Bldg., 1330 Dela Rosa Cor. Magallanes Village, Makati City	Chaimaa Benhima Moroccan Mohammed Ouma Kenyan	Country Manager

If you have any information objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Division.

RAYMUNDO L. ALIMURONG
Regional Director Jr.

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at #1 Interstate St., cor. N. Reyes St., Sampaloc, Manila, Metro Manila, invites all prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid and Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Hours of Pre-Bid Conference	Date/Hours of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
1. Printing and Shredding of Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) 2nd Batch/es	TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P2,965,000.00) in the amount of FIFTY NINE CENTAVOS (P 0.59) per EXAMINEE	February 17, 2010, Wednesday at 9:00 A.M. at the PRC Conference Room, 2nd Fl., PRC Main Building, Sampaloc, Manila	March 1, 2010, Monday at 10:00 A.M. at the PRC Conference Room, 2nd Fl., PRC Main Building, Sampaloc, Manila	P 3,000.00
2. Printing and Shredding of Nurse Licensure Examination (NLE) 1st Batch/es	SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P 7,152,000.00) in the amount of FIFTY NINE CENTAVOS (P 2.30) per EXAMINEE	February 17, 2010, Wednesday at 9:00 A.M. at the PRC Conference Room, 2nd Fl., PRC Main Building, Sampaloc, Manila	March 1, 2010, Monday at 2:00 P.M. at the PRC Conference Room, 2nd Fl., PRC Main Building, Sampaloc, Manila	P 7,150.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting Tuesday, February 9, 2010 from the Office of Assistant Commissioner Ambrosenio T. Bienvenida, BAC Chairman, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building, Professional Regulation Commission, #1 Interstate St., Sampaloc, Manila.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its corresponding Rules and Regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) Amb. Zoreen Arsinigamen T. Bienvenida
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

BUSINESS

Auto industry posted 34% sales growth in Jan.

By Abigail L. Ho

VEHICLE SALES REACHED 11,753 units in January, a 33.8-percent improvement from the 8,781 units sold in the same month last year.

According to data from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. and the Truck Manufacturers Association, while January sales represented a 13.5-percent decline from December sales, the number of vehicles sold was still higher than the 2009 monthly average of 11,072 units.

"The high January sales augur well for the year. It is a good start for 2010," Campi president Elizabeth Lee said in a statement.

"We are looking forward to much stronger growth this year with increased spending as a result of bullish investment Filipino workers' remittances projection, increased appetite for investment and business expansion," she said.

Lee said commitments were expected to grow by 9 percent to more than ₱3.6 billion.

She said high market liquidity, ease in taking out loans, and the expected increase in spending as a result of the May polls should also benefit the auto sector.

Commercial vehicles continued to be the vehicle of choice of Filipinos, selling 7,597 units in January—a growth of 46 percent from 5,414 units sold a year ago.

Light commercial vehicles—pick-up trucks, vans, compact sport utility vehicles, and AUVs—dominated the CV category with sales hitting 5,176 units for an overall market share of 44 percent.

Asian utility vehicle sales went up by 33.3 percent to 2,688 units last month, from 1,698 units in the same period last year.

"To a certain extent, strong vehicle sales are reflective of a stronger economy in environment. With the robust growth of CV sales, particularly AUV and LCV, most of which are used for both family and business, Filipinos are now showing more aggressiveness to either starting a business or expanding their current businesses," Lee said.

Passenger car sales likewise increased to 3,555 units in January, 14.1 percent better than the 3,275 units sold the year before.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. maintained its No. 1 position in the industry with January sales reaching 3,071 units, 20.9 percent better than last year's 2,500 units. Its market share, however, dropped to 32.9 percent from 36.4 percent in the same month last year.

BSP seen raising policy rate in Q2

By Michelle V. Borre

HERE IS A PICKUP IN INTEREST rates as early as the second quarter, saying the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will likely raise its key policy or borrowing rate by then in response to faster rise in consumer prices.

"The BSP has managed inflation very well, I don't think it will allow inflation to exceed the ceiling, so it will likely raise rates by the second or third quarter," Jesus Mendoza, senior vice president of BSBC, said in a briefing yesterday.

For 2010, the central bank has set a goal of keeping inflation within the 3.5 and 5.5 percent range.

Given expectations of a faster economic growth this year, demand for goods and services is coming up at a faster clip.

He said the central bank was expected to prevent the acceleration of inflation to beyond 5.5 percent by raising its key policy rate, which stands at 4 percent. The borrowing rate reached this level after a series of rate cuts equivalent to a total of 300 basis points from December 2008 until to July 2009.

The rate cuts were meant to encourage borrowings by individuals and businesses, and boost consumption and investments to prevent a recession last year.

The key policy rate is what the BSP pays banks for their overnight deposits in the central bank. An increase in the policy rate encourages banks to deposit more in the BSP.

Economists said, however, that given the reported recovery of the global and domestic economies, the central bank may already withdraw some of the incentives it implemented earlier to stimulate the economy.

If interest rates were kept low for too long, they said, inflation may accelerate beyond tolerable levels.

The BSP earlier said it was prepared to raise rates if economic conditions would call for it. Monetary officials said the BSP was focused on ensuring that inflation would be within target range.

Latest data from the National Statistics Office showed that the annual inflation rate eased at 4.3 percent in January.

Mendoza said inflation this year would be faster than last year's partly because of election-related spending and stimulated rise in remittances.

Money sent by Filipinos based overseas is likely to grow by between 5 and 10 percent this year, Mendoza said, from last year's estimated remittances of about $17 billion.

Increases to be generated by businesses from election-related spending and remittance-supported consumption will partly help the overall economy to grow by 5.1 percent this year, he said.

His forecast on the economic growth for this year is more bullish than that of the government's 3.6 to 5.6 percent.

CONCEPT ONE
www.ConceptOneWheels.com

MOTORING

E-mail: pi_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Joey H. Arcano

Affordable "date car" choices

By Alex Uy
Contributor

ANSWER SAID GUYS do not look forward to Valentine's Day? There are the smart people who probably didn't ask guys who love and honor their cars. Overpriced flowers and flowers are a small price to pay to have a chance to celebrate with the love of their lives. This season, we write to list a few interesting choices and movies from some very cool cars in their respective disciplines and leadership. But before we take first trip to the highways of love or cruise down memories lane, here are some popular choices for date cars that don't necessarily mean we need to break the bank.

THE MAZDA MX-5 A true roadster built to look and feel the part.

Honda Jazz

Why not? It's a market class leader, very light on the wallet as far as fuel budget is concerned with enough change for a nice mini dinner. Its recent facelift made it up-to-date styling, highly affordable and slightly bigger dimensions (compared to the last generation) makes it a good first date car. It doesn't tell the driver's date that it's a chick magnet, an impression that most ladies do not customarily get somewhere else with specialty on the first date. Relish on frugal, it is also a hatchback as well. You won't have a problem with parking in a tight spot as well. Here's a tip—make sure your take out your date on a nice and elegant restaurant, you've saved enough for it.

Subaru WRX Sedan

This fast compact car has a set of turbocharged roots that is fuss-fitting and gives a nice long list looks during cool your passengers date, something you would need specially with its razor-sharp handling if you decide to set his pulse racing in cut-to-cross day trips on twisty roads. Its near-zero speed and relatively smoother ride than its high performance STI sibling) is a better choice if you want to enable this car in a daily commute. Make sure you don't drive too aggressively and end up scolding your dinner date.

MINI Cooper Clubman

This modern interpretation of the new MINI comes with better ingress and luggage space for a rear seat—under "mini" homeowners (the assisted folks, that is). It drives like a big car and everything is just cool about this car. From its sweet interior and instrument layout, to its sweet-looking face any lady would love. Owning a car like this not only has "cool" labeled to like, all over, but also a guy who knows how to have several fun.

MINI Clubman comes with better legroom and luggage space for a nice weekender.

Hyundai Genesis Coupe

This two-door dream coupe is a great choice considering its price tag and sexy looks. Who would have thought it came from the same folks who produced one of the most popular family vans as well? You don't have to dream too long about this car in here one, you just have to pick between the hot four-cylinder turbo engine or the smoother more muscular V6 variant.

Mazda MX-5

This is the only car that broke the two-million-unit barrier.

SUBARU WRX: A set of turbocharged roots is fuss-fitting.

DENISE Gonzalez and Dino Cayanan

A perfect day for an open top ride

DENISE GRACE GONZALEZ, WHOM FRIENDS CALL Deegrace, recalls a perfect day with her open top 1995 BMW 325i convertible. "It was our second year anniversary and we went to Tagaytay and spent our last there. We went in a red 1995 BMW 325i convertible and it was December so the weather was perfect for a convertible, it was a cool and breezy day. It had a powerful engine which made the short trip exhilarating and exciting. This had good vibes and good food. It was the perfect date," remembers Chef Dino.

An architect's joyride

Architect Jessica Ho said her wife Ellie always love to take out cars of her own first generation Ford Mustangs (a 1968 coupe and a 1969 convertible) or her Mercedes-Benz 190E (1991), convertible (also known as SL Class) since for them, there is always an opportunity for a romantic drive ride. "The experience once an month as I do and we would go out for a leisurely drive to places like Pampanga and just have little chats or Nakascafe's cappuccino convention in San Fernando. I remember a funny incident when we took our car with our son for a short dinner and I ended up pushing our car along Alfie because of engine trouble. But wants to think of it, it adds excitement to our driving adventures. Because of this, there is always an element of tension which adds to the excitement every time we take out our dream cars on for open ride," said Architect Ho.

A night out in the stars

For sound-running professional car owner Alex Ang and his wife Darlene, he finally remembers taking their date to her to a memorable romantic drive to Tagaytay—"I drove a blue Ford F150 SVT Lightning with Darlene and had dinner at Forest's Garden. He then romped out in a family property as we brought our twin and light, once in that time when there was no house yet. It was just the two of us drove romped out in a big lot. The drive was not that long but we spent it putting in banter with other street and car were always laughing," recalled Alex, who still fondly remembers that romantic night years ago.

Wedding bells and a nice ride

Jay Gonzaga first owner Sammy Lizada, he still fondly remembers his wedding day when this "Mustang" Willie Kenny of Jaguar Philippines here kindly procured out a white 1989 Jaguar XJ-6 as his wedding car. "The car was hardly a few years old but he polished rims wheels and paint wood trims and leather interior made it look like an instant classic car. But my fiancé my wife Jeffy-ann our wedding day and we were a handbrake and from our wedding and reception. I am still remember the two posh interior and smooth ride of the car which made our wedding day very memorable," remembers Lizada. According to him the XJ-6 is still with the Jocog family up to now. It's not surprising why he would not let go of this treasure for sure.

DANIEL and Ellie Go with their PHR200 SL

INQUIRER Compiled by Charles E. Bolton

Car Buyer's Guide

Luxury MPV

Make/Model	Price	Fuel	Configuration: Displacement (Liters)	Transmission	Segment/Class	Drivetrain	Tires: Brand	Tires: Tread Warranty	What's special
Chevy Tahoe LS 4WD	P3,650,000	Gas	5.3	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Commanding ride from Chevy
Chevy Tahoe LT 4WD	P3,850,000	Gas	5.3	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Commanding ride from Chevy
Mazda CX-9 Grand Touring 2.5 GAS 4WD	P2,198,000	Gas	2.5	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Mazda CX-9 GT 2.5 GAS 4WD	P2,198,000	Gas	2.5	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Mazda CX-9 Touring 2.5 GAS 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Gas	2.5	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Mazda CX-9 GT 2.5 GAS 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Gas	2.5	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Mitsubishi Montero GLS 3.2 DSL 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Diesel	3.2	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Mitsubishi Montero GLS-V 3.2 DSL 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Diesel	3.2	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Mitsubishi Montero GLX 3.2 DSL 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Diesel	3.2	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Subaru Tribeca 3.6 GAS 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Gas	3.6	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Subaru Tribeca 3.6R GAS 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Gas	3.6	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Subaru Tribeca 3.6R Limited GAS 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Gas	3.6	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Subaru Tribeca 3.6R Limited 7-Seater GAS 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Gas	3.6	Manual	SUV	4x4	Goodyear	50,000	Sleek, sporty, luxurious
Suzuki Grand Vitara 2.4 GAS 4WD AT	P2,198,000	Gas	2.4

Metal beast crosses rocky river –over, and over, and over

By Tonio B. Salazar

FIFTY-ONE TIMES.

That's how many times the 2016 Suzuki Sx4 pickup has crossed the same river in Bicol, but with this driver. And every time, she has come out on the other side with a smile on her face.

If there is an off-roader's ultimate test dream, surely this stretch of road between Iriga City and Gregorio del Pilar in Bicol has qualified among the top three, at least. It's not called "Heaven's Pass" by trekkers and mountain bikers for nothing.

For its part, no other pick-up has given this much wild and wet fun for this writer. This "supercharged" looking red 1.2-liter Dzida GLX Sport has proven that it can get down and dirty strongly, more than the hooking pickups out there. In particular with a 3-liter Isuzu D-Max which also aced along for the ride.

It showed it had enough power to pair a water-deep river, and enough maneuverability to negotiate its way around boulders and rocks (without a hitch) fully loaded with humans, luggage, bikes and native paraphernalia.

The treacherous way to the point has historic town of Gregorio del Pilar, from neighboring Salcedo town (which actually serves as gateway to the mountain resort) is through the Bicol River 17 times. So why did the Honda do it? The first time the Honda encountered the Quadfest was three years ago, when this writer used the 2.5-liter version of the Civic pick-up.

During that trip—part of a pilgrimage of bikers and trekkers known as the "Heroes' Trek" commemorating the death of Gregorio del Pilar by an American major during the Philippine-American war—the Honda went for a two-way trip from Salcedo to Del Pilar, and back.

This time, the Honda, with the Isuzu D-Max and a hybrid 3D-scooter "jeepyard," carried 20 members of the Inocentes Outdoor Club and Cycad Cycling Adventures and Advocates for a round of this always treacherous but fun young person's drive.

The driving almost off-roading, this writer noted as the convoy arrived at the town late in the afternoon of Jan. 22, is that one single route never gets boring despite how many times you take it.

That's how it was with the Quadfest four years ago, and it's how it has always been with the writer's numerous off-road experiences. In scenery. Just last year, for example, the—along with other motoring journalists—also took the D-Max Brondhob II edition on a scathing O'Donnell story near the base of Mount Pinatubo. The last drive this story before you is Ford Ranger and Pinatubo Edition pick-up, but the experience seemed always new, always exciting.

The pick-up, in general, seemed to improve as its features and handling were fine-tuned along the way. It was not so well as the driver's quick, decisive making. The D-Max, in particular, would now attack the unpredictable paths with confidence, the dry patches (no 4x4 settings—that means the D-Max's 4-wheel drive was dry), lets the driver shift from the regular 2H drive to 4H everywhere in front.

The Honda, on the other hand, need[s] time adjusted to points' values that the gearing remain "old-school"—that is, the shifting remains to a smaller shift knob that's found in the D-Max. It's not electric, and practical reasons, even, for how can someone fix an electronic problem when your new shifter knobs down in the middle of nowhere?

So, it would seem to say that the conventional, inherited looking Honda shifter served a purpose, after all, while the Isuzu D-Max office, also, button. But as we always say, style is subjective. Whatever works goes in, right?

The Honda, however, presents more of a challenge when shifting from 2H to 4-wheel drive. Because it is a shift knob, drivers need to make sure that they have disengaged from 2-wheel and have engaged the 4-wheel drive—and vice versa.

While the Honda is longer, higher and heavier, the D-Max has a bigger wheelbase and has slightly higher ground clearance.

The Honda cabin seats better when off-the-shores answer drivers.

Noticeable, too, is the presence of Honda's brilliant and automatic windows opening at the back. The D-Max, for its part, offers a third trailer light, a slightly longer cargo bed, 2-point seatbelts for three back passengers in many by-jeepneys.

The acceleration pedals on the D-Max felt a bit smoother with the 4JK1 and engine feeling sturdy. The Honda, at times, was jerky and there was a bit of lag in the engine's response.

Still, even now and then, the Honda lost by a narrow[ed] Honda trail in much-closed the D-Max.

LOADED! Batanes cyclists hitch their way through slippery mountain passes.

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Verdict:

The Honda proves that it can feel at home at both hands of tougher concerns and otherwise). The D-Max, meanwhile, has reinforced its reputation as a heavy-duty workhorse with a soft heart for L-wheel-drive convenience.

Here are the price ages: The Honda 2.5 6/6 4x2 M/T ₱800,000; Honda 2.5 GLX 4x2 M/T ₱920,000; Honda 2.5 GLX Sport 4x4 A/T 1,300,000; Honda 2.5 GLX Sport 4x4 M/T 1,200,000; Honda 1.2 GLX Sport 4x4 A/T 1,300,000.

The D-Max prices and variants: 4x2 M/T LT (Standard) 868,000; 2016 D-Max 4x2 M/T LS 990,000; 2016 D-Max 4x2 M/T LS 1,145,000; 2016 D-Max 4x2 A/T LS 1,168,000; 2016 D-Max 4x4 M/T LS 1,168,000; 2016 D-Max 4x4 A/T LS 1,398,000; 2016 D-Max 4x4 M/T LS 1,398,000; 2016 D-Max 4x4 A/T LS 1,398,000

Gas mileage for the car of ownership after the wake

Picking up the aftersales tab

Compiled by Tonio B. Salazar

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION regarding the aftersales tab of the Honda Brio MT and D-Max and AT pick-up. For the first 100,000 km or two years (whichever comes first), owners are limited to an estimated 20,000-km one-year visit. The policy here is that scheduled maintenance are done when owners are here for any and various concerns—also took the D-Max Brondhob II edition on a scathing O'Donnell story near the base of Mount Pinatubo. The last drive this story before you is Ford Ranger and Pinatubo Edition pick-up, but the experience seemed always new, always exciting.

The pick-up, in general, seemed to improve as its features and handling were fine-tuned along the way. It was not so well as the driver's quick, decisive making. The D-Max, in particular, would now attack the unpredictable paths with confidence, the dry patches (no 4x4 settings—that means the D-Mak's 4-wheel drive was dry), lets the driver shift from the regular 2H drive to 4H everywhere in front.

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The D-Mak prices and variants: 4x2 M/T LT (Standard) 868,000; 2016 D-Mak 4x2 M/T LS 990,000; 2016 D-Mak 4x2 M/T LS 1,145,000; 2016 D-Mak 4x2 A/T LS 1,168,000; 2016 D-Mak 4x4 M/T LS 1,168,000; 2016 D-Mak 4x4 A/T LS 1,398,000; 2016 D-Mak 4x4 M/T LS 1,398,000; 2016 D-Mak 4x4 A/T LS 1,398,000

Gas mileage for the car of ownership after the wake

SPECS

Pulid 1kl of specifications

Engine
Type 3.2litre DOHC 16-valve turbocharged and intercooled D-shaft gasoline engine w/ Low-Z
Displacement (CC)
Max output (bhp@rpm)
Max Torque (kg-m@rpm)
Bore x Stroke (mm)
Fuel tank capacity, 71 litres
Electrical
Overall length (mm)
Overall width
Overall height
Curb weight
Ground clearance
Gross vehicle weight rating
Transmission
Limited slip differential
Steering
Equipped with electrical steering system with tilt/reach
Brakes
Front
Rear
Suspension
Front
Rear
Wheels and tires
Safety
Dual SRS airbags
Anti-lock brake system
Reverse camera

Infotainment system
Emergency brake light activation system
Tire pressure monitoring system

Honda D-Mak 4x4 M/T

Engine
Type 4JK1-TC DOHC Intercooled-Head injection diesel with turbocharger
Displacement (CC) 2,999
Max output (bhp@rpm) 177@3,600
Max Torque (kg-m@rpm) 400@1,600-2,800
Bore x Stroke (mm) 95.4 x 104
Fuel tank capacity, 76 litres
Electrical
Overall length 5,295mm
Overall width 1,860mm
Overall height 1,780mm
Curb weight 1,970kg
Ground clearance 225mm
Gross vehicle weight 2,920kg
Transmission
Limited slip differential
Steering
Equipped with electrical steering system with tilt/reach
Brakes
Front
Rear
Suspension
Front
Rear
Wheels and tires
Safety
Dual SRS airbags
Anti-lock brake system
Reverse camera

Infotainment system
Emergency brake light activation system
Tire pressure monitoring system

Audi TT coupe tops V-Power offer

PENANG: MARC MARKS THE year with a bang by going for F1-level motorsport's most amazing offers topped by a chance to win the 2016 Audi TT coupe.

Customers can also get special discounts on Volvo and Mazda cars, the Audi sales unit for the third offer, double the chance to win an Audi offer applicable soon.

Every P1000 single or accumulated purchase at V-Power gets you a special entries. Collect 10 V entries on your Shell V-Power card to get a special limited edition Shell V-Power cap and qualify for the raffle of a 2016 Audi TT coupe.

The V-Power card has special features offers on Volvo and Shell shop items, Shell Helix Service Centre packages and Shell Lubes. Set up to 8 refuels at the 98 octane package. A gallon of Shell Helix Ultra and Helix Plus are P100 off and a litre of Helix Ultra, Helix Ultra or any Shell lubricants grade are at P20 off. This offer ends on March 31, 2016.

Shell V-Power customers also get double the chances of winning in 1-for-1s of bags of rice, kitchen and home appliances, bikes, motorcycles, more and Shell Selection discounts. Shell V-Power will run until March 31, 2016. There will be three preliminary raffle draws and one major raffle draw.

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Suzuki launches Smash for novice riders

A smashing look for the new Smash bike.

SUZUKI MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. of motorcycles in a spate of announcements among Filipino motorists, more and more novice riders are looking for security-rich, at bike with greater performance and durability.

Suzuki hopes to win them over with convenience rides on fast adapting to the motorcycle lifestyle. Suzuki Philippines offers the Suzuki Smash Revolution as an ideal bike for novice riders. Designed for everyday use, its high-revving, strong gearing 110cc is also extremely economical. This is because of Suzuki's patented Fuel-Injection System (FIS) system that decreases engine efficiency by burning an optimal gasoline for reduced cost.

For color convenience, the Suzuki Smash Revolution comes with an electric starter and 4-speed constant mesh transmission. In exchanging, oil-damped suspension system ensures the people for the front and rear to cope for the rest. This is complemented by

Improved hydraulic and rear brakes give the Smash added acceleration at decisive-ready speed, fuel and fuel-economy.

Additional[ly] designed as a sturdy bike, the Suzuki Smash Revolution is known for its strong qualities by maximizing for 113 Open and 115 Sports Production category, taking home the Championship titles in the 2009 season.

Suzuki Philippines will launch the said Smash October 14, 2009, at the Glorietta 4 Activity Center, Makati City.

Suzuki Philippines, Inc. is also celebrating its 20th anniversary in the country this year. Established in October 1989 as a joint venture between Suzuki Motor Corporation of Japan and Philippine investors, Suzuki Philippines has been a leading manufacturer of motorcycles, automobiles, outboard motors, and other products in the country.

Suzuki Philippines is also committed to helping its dealers, customers, and the community. Suzuki Philippines is the only motorcycle company that has been awarded the ISO 9001:2000 certification for its manufacturing plant in Cavite. Suzuki Philippines' manufacturing philosophy is grounded on providing value-packed, high-quality products offering both reliability and responsibility.

Suzuki Philippines' motorcycle sales of 2,000 people, has over 60 main production facilities in 20 countries, and distributors in 170 countries. Suzuki Philippines' motorcycle range of the latest advancements in energy, environment, electronics, communications, information and control applications—all devoted to creating products with more joy—developers of the next generation.

A consumer's view of Toyota's never-ending story

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

MAYLEG, RUTHERFORD AND BEARFIELD...if not identical, sounded and announced. These words could describe the chronology of successive and Toyota vehicle recalls all over the world by Toyota Motor Corporation's seemingly never-ending litany of safety problems.

Since November 2009, Toyota has recalled over eight million vehicles globally due to problems with accelerator pedals. As I write this, Toyota's reported that Toyota is propelling to recall up to 200,000 of its 2010 Prius hybrid cars sold between May and December 2009 to repair a flaw in the anti-lock braking system. Indeed, Toyota is poised to be the biggest recall-related crisis to be auto industry since exploding Firestone tires caused Ford Explorer to roll over 10 years ago. Beside Toyota's sterling reputation for quality, reliability and safety has been seriously dented worldwide.

Context is growing that before the massive recalls, Toyota failed to heed government warnings and underestimated the problem. Reports about unintended and sudden acceleration in some Toyota vehicles first surfaced in 2002, but the company other years of receiving such complaints, concluded in June 2009 that it was caused by all-too-direct rates or unnecessary floor mats jamming the accelerator pedal, a recent New York Times/CBS poll reveals. One also "It's not just the floor mats or the gas pedal, folks" my Oct. 5, 2009 column.)

First recall

But late last year, after four people in a runaway Lexus ES 350 were killed in a crash near San Diego, California, Toyota issued the first of several recalls that culminated last month in the company temporarily halting the production and sale of eight Toyota models including the Camry, Corolla and RAV4 in North America. Toyota initially said the decision to stop producing the recalled models was made voluntarily, but US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood told The Associated Press last week that previously how his department was the reason. LaHood emphasized that the world's biggest carmaker announced the recalls only after Transportation Department officials told Toyota to do so. "We remind Toyota about its legal obligations." Over-all, the unintended acceleration issue has been linked to up to 19 crash deaths in the US. Reports have filed at US Congressional panel is probing why several years elapsed before Toyota acted on complaints. Only the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration had received almost 5,000 complaints.

Notably, after nearly a week of silence, it was only on Monday, Feb. 1, that Toyota began to publicly discuss consumers' concerns over sudden acceleration of its vehicles via newspaper ads explaining the situation and a round of television interviews with Jimmy K. Lenn III, president of Toyota's US sales division. Industry analysts estimate the months and sales stoppage would cost Toyota around US$1 billion, but the longer-term damage to the Toyota brand could be much larger unless it succeeds to reassure its billions.

Lenn announced on Feb. 1 two solutions to the accelerator pedal problem: installing a steel reinforcement bar in the pedal assembly of 2.3 million vehicles in the US and providing replacement pedals for more than five million customers were recalled so those cars that could join the accelerator. Those three follow Toyota's claim last fall that floor mats were the sole cause of the accelerator problems and its maneuvers to date, only that pedal assemblies could cause acceleration to stick.

Electronics

While many expressed such? doubts that the new fixes would actually settle the issue, some consumers and safety experts suggest that the computerized electronic throttle system controlling the speed in Toyotas would be at fault. But Toyota says exhaustive testing has not found any evidence that their electronic systems have a safety defect. Two Congressional committees in Washington holding hearings later this month on the matter will include an electronic analysis review.

Despite the woes, Toyota expects to report a profit for the fiscal year ending in March compared with earlier expectations of a loss. Toyota has rebounded from crises in the US before such as the 1980s-era Unit Wilson over sales and "Toyota bashing" or hostility to avoid Japanese companies. Investors' protectionism and politicians' pandemonium during an election year are seen by some as the motives behind the hysterical Congressional hearings. But, as Neal Templin, a former Wall Street Journal hand now in Hong Kong recently, "The company has overcome financial and technical concerns and it remains the leader in gas-electric hybrid technology."

Even here, Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) announced early last week that the Toyota and some models it sells are not included in the US cars because product recall since the Corolla 1800 and Camry sold here are manufactured in Thailand while 8000 is are imported from Japan. TMP, which says the industry's sales, is targeting an 8.3 percent sales growth this year to 65,000 vehicles.

Sources: Reuters, NYT, AP, Bloomberg

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Major auto recalls

1971 - General Motors recalls 6.7 million vehicles due to engine mounts that separated from the vehicle and impacted the throttle.

1981 - GM recalls 5.8 million vehicles due to loose suspension bolts that affected steering.

1996 - Ford recalls more than 8 million vehicles to replace rotten ignition switches that could cause electrical shorts and engine fires.

July 1998 - GM recalls close to 1 million Cadillac, Pontiac and Chevrolet cars because of flaws the air bags could deploy by accident.

2004 - GM recalls nearly 4 million pickups because of corroding tailgate cables.

April 2005 - GM says it recalls more than 7 million vehicles to fix a variety of potential safety defects. GM says the largest of the safety actions relates to problems with Delphi seat belt pre-1.6 million full-size pickups and SUVs from 2003-05 model years.

Oct. 2009 - Toyota recalls 1.8 million cars globally, including the Corolla and 16 other models, due to trouble with the headlight switching system.

Dec. 2007 - Chrysler LLC says it would recall more than 571,000 vehicles as long-term wear on the gear shift assembly could create a shift out of Park without the key in the ignition. The recall involves 2001-06 model-year Dodge Dakota pickups, Durango SUVs and Ram vans and 2005 Dakota pickups.

Aug. 2008 - GM announces a recall of 861,750 vehicles equipped with a heated windshield wiper fluid system that could cause a short circuit.

Sept. 2009 - Toyota says to recall around 3.8 million vehicles in the U.S. because of floor mats that could come loose and block the accelerator. The problem is suspected in accidents that killed 5 people.

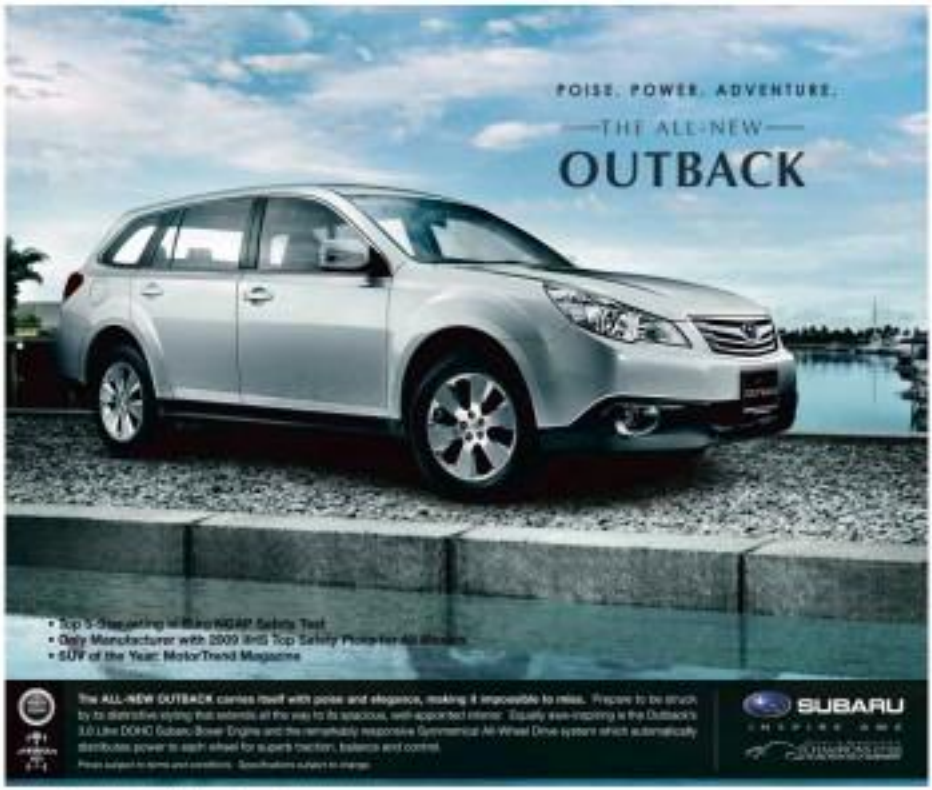
Oct. 2009 - Ford completes a series of recalls affecting 14 million vehicles due to a faulty cruise control deactivation switch. The latest recall effectively closes out a 10-year saga over the switches.

Jan. 2010 - Honda recalls 646,000 fit cars and city cars globally over a faulty window switch after a child died in 2008 when the brake did to lock.

— Toyota's as debris impact other automakers, too. France's PSA Peugeot Citroen says to recall nearly 100,000 Peugeot 107s and Citroen C1s made in the Czech Republic at a plant where Toyota and PSA jointly make cars.

Feb. 2010 - Toyota announces that 2.6,000 cars in Germany, Europe's biggest car market, and 180,000 in Britain are included in the mass recall to fix an accelerator pedal problem. Some European Toyota vehicles are now up for repair globally, including the floor mat issue. Overall, the combined possible recall now has been linked to up to 19 crash deaths in the United States.

— Toyota prepares to recall some 300,000 hybrid Prius models after safety regulators in the U.S. and Japan launch probes into braking problems. The car, a pioneer in gasoline-electric hybrids, was Japan's top-selling car in 2009.



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LIFESTYLE Parenting

Plant the future.
Find out how in Section E.

DUNKIN' DONUTS D'Lovers' Delights 2 ways to show your love
1 P29 3 Heart-shaped Donuts
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How you can live with your kid's video games and Internet use

My brother was hooked; he even became RP's fastest texter

By Pam Pastor

BACK IN THE '80S, WHEN the Nintendo Family Computer was first becoming a worldwide phenomenon, my father brought home a unit.

After discovering the magical world of Mario and Luigi, Contra, Dokapi and Battle Tank, my little brother was hooked. He decided to spend every waking second in front of the TV his daddy lit the Kapisa galaxy. the controller as he made his favorite video game characters chase mushrooms, disappear into warp zones, shoot aliens and annihilate his enemies with a powerful machine gun.

He was only two years old.

His video game addiction grew steadily until he refused to stop playing to eat. His yaya had to feed him before the TV so he'd fail to reach the next level of the game. Soon, he had his potty right beside him so he didn't have to walk to the bathroom for breaks.

The addiction stopped only when he started school and my parents implemented rules on playing video games. We had other remedies after the Family Computer, while my brother celebrated playing, he knows he had to stop his meals. And by then, thankfully, his potty was out of sight.

My brother grew up to be a really good drummer. We all think those hours playing the computer did something incredible to his hand-eye coordination. He also became the Philippines' fastest texter (he was the instrumental champion of the Nokia contest some years back, beating out the Strauss and Mendoza champions and winning a lot of money).

My brother's video game addiction has its legendary status in my family. It is a story told and retold, especially to younger cousins, who never witnessed just how video games crazy he had been.

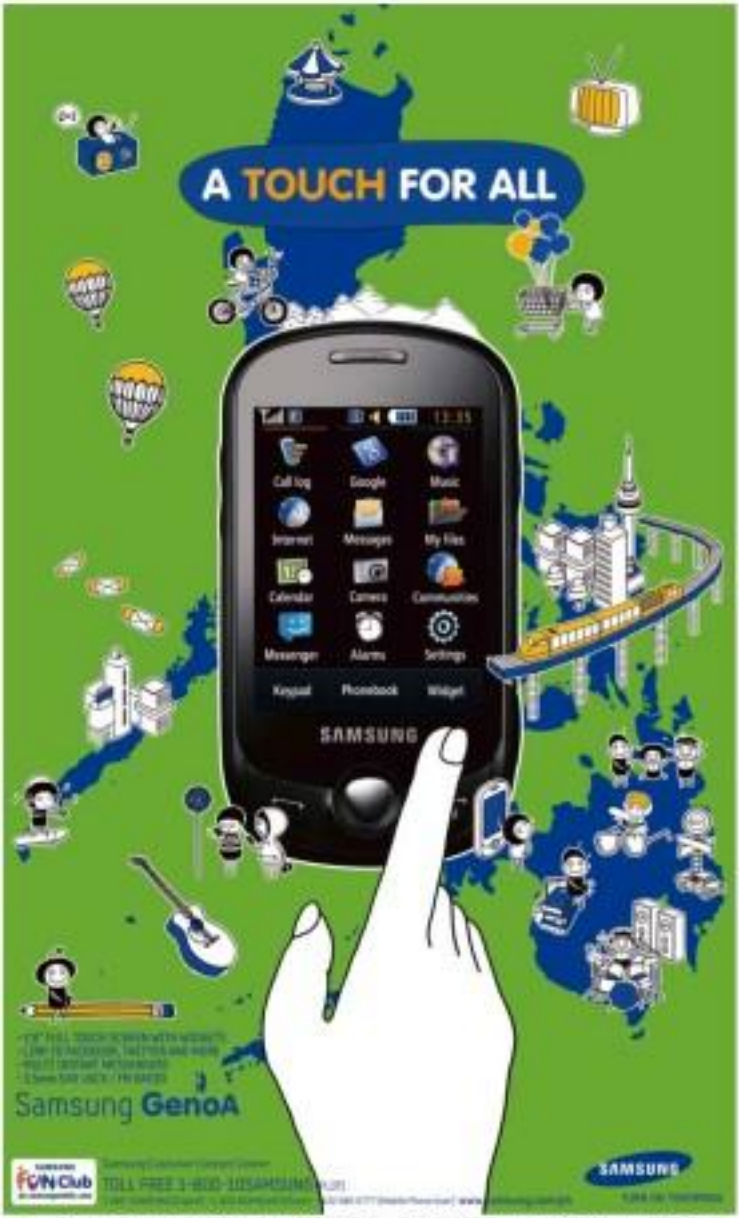
Tougher

Things are tougher for parents today. Aside from the many gaming consoles available on the market now (Wii, Xbox, Play Station 3), there are also hundreds of video games (iOS Like, PSP, Nintendo software and more). And, there's the Internet.

The results of a recent study on young Americans shocked researchers. A New York Times story quoted Donald F. Roberts, a Stanford communications professor emeritus and one of the authors of the study, "Risk is a element. In the second report, I remember seeing a pornography rating we're hit a ceiling on media use, since there just weren't enough hours in the day to increase the time children spend on media. But now it's up on four."

It's likely that researchers will find similar results if their study Filipino children. We see Filipino kids active online—they e-mail, chat, play games, even have Facebook accounts even if Facebook has an age requirement of 13.

They also have gaming consoles (a number of households have more than one). Grandma children have handheld gaming consoles they bring everywhere. How many times have you seen kids playing their PSPs and DS Lites at restaurants while eating



JOHN D'Nice as Rum Tum Tugger

JAMES Cooper transforms into Plato for painting-sweatshop in part 1 transition

IN CHARGE of wigs, Monnie Cani

ADORABLE kittens

Meeting the cast and crew of 'Cats' in Australia—truly awesome!

THE CAST of "Cats" at their best

GLAM girls Grizabella portrayed by Delia Hannah

MUSICAL director Paul White

"CATS" resident choreographer and assistant director Maeve Wesley

IT HAS JUST A SHORT WHILE ALL siblings, it was well-worth every minute we stayed in Adelaide, Australia. The delightful company of performers and stuff with Executive Producer, dedicated managing director **Suzette Weiss-Wein** and adorable **Melissa Abramovitz** gave us an awesome exclusive chance to see the set of the world record-breaking musical show, "Cats: Now and Forever." The longest running and definitely the best loved musical the world has seen in decades has been playing to a sold-out full house at the Adelaide Festival Theatre since Dec. 21. In these memorable few days, we were introduced to the action and

OLD Deuteronomy going up

PRODUCTION supervisor Pete Quirk and company manager Ros Windsor

JOHN DE Silva plays Old Deuteronomy, while Shane Bosnic portrays Mumbo-Jumbo.

HEAD of wardrobe Tina Harrison

Without batting an eyelash

Photos by Alex Ian Hagen using **YBL** Photo Solutions

personnels behind the brilliant production of "Cats"—from the members of the cast to the technical-

team. The production will have its Manila premiere on, take note, dahlings, July 28 at the Tanghalang Manuel Arelovado of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). It's on a limited season, so make that a definitely must-go-to event with your friends and family.

"Cats" is a totally awesome sophisticated musical based on **TS Eliot**'s collection of poetry, "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," and it among the world's love-loved musicals that has taken over the history of broadway in New York and West End in London. It tells the story of a group of Jellicle cats with human personalities who, during an annual ball, choose one cat to be sent to the Heaviside Layer to be reborn into the next life. Jellicle Cats is a term, which is now to capture the hearts of kids and adults alike.

Two admirable superwomen achievers, **Bet Windsor**, the company stage manager, and **Peter Quarry**, the energetic conductor-stage manager, were very accommodating in answering the questions we've been dying to know about "Cats," and we allow us to explore the Jellicle cats' junkyard, where all the surprises and magic once happen.

We were told by vibrant **Shanon Tatar**, who heads the management of 60 delicate fabulous wigs, that each hundreds wig comes from real hair dahlings.

Pepper Tsukamoto now had his dressing changeover, which Queen herself liked, the **Sun Bugis** matched the lovely Rum Tum Tugger, with **Tim Yap** following suit. The favorite bit for most of us was her make-

from Tum Tugger, who dunks flamboyantly across the stage playing an guitar—a super cool, hot grownup—a cross between **David Bowie** and **Mick Jagger**. You'll love Tugger, for sure!

We finally did a one-on-one interview with some of the performers. "Cats," which first opened in London in May 1981, is a phenomenal musical and the longest-running on the West End, which has been staged for 18 straight years on Broadway.

As stage-manager **Sean D'Silva** puts it, "The belle of the Jellicle ball is Grizabella, played by Australian actress **Delia Hannah**." She has a voice to put you at the edge of your seat, dahlings. The once-glamorous Cat—who left the cyber years ago to explore the outside world—wants to return the Jellicles but is rejected.

The outfits in all her staged from cool glory,

SEXY Siamese

VICTORIA the White Kitten

TATLER editor-in-chief Anne San Diego; Citibank PR and Communications head Annie Ng Lim; Solaire Entertainment Group's Angela Robinson; Tatler staff Robert Jamolli, Bonnie Marie Alcala-Serrano and Jhan Egan D'Rayos

HYPEN Fashion, press-con coordinator Helen Hernandez, mct, Cinemax managing director Ramiel Hernandez and Tim Yap

STAR'S Jerry Osorio, Manila Bulletin's Cleophas Balan, Trevor Richmond and Inquirer's VP-Marketing Jocel Salonga-Arbo (DS)

How you can live with your kid's video games and Internet use

How other parents do it

LIFESTYLE ASKED PARENTS with kids of different ages to share their thoughts on video games, computers and their screen-time settings. Excerpts:

Even an hour is too much

Nikka Abes, Corporate Communications Manager for NAIA, has two kids—Jara, 6, and Paolo, 4—"My house two gaming consoles that you just plug into the TV to play. We've managed to keep the PSP, DS Lite, GameBoy, PSL, etc. at bay since we keep telling the kids they don't need it yet. But lately they've been chanting for the PS3."

In the meantime, the kids just play those plug-and-play video games and games on their parents' phones. Nikka says they never play for more than an hour.

"It depends on how fast they finish dinner and homework. If they have time before lights-out at 9:30 p.m., they can still play. Some nights are harder because they argue and try to buy more time. They get extra rings for those times they shut down as told."

Even on weekends, the kids don't play for over an hour. "We're usually out and about on weekends." When they're on the go, Nikka says her kids play games on her and her husband's phones. "Usually it's a struggle to get your phone back."

But she sees the advantages to video games, too. "I have to admit that some games actually teach them some things. I suppose their dexterity, their patience and I wish them to keep trying and trying and never give up."

Nikka's advice to other parents? "Hold off on the portable gaming consoles for as long as you can. Those things can be deadly because they are portable. We don't want our kids to be antisocial, do we? Try to offer them other fun things to do with their time. In our case, they love the chance to wrestle with Daddy or go swimming or play in the park."

No video games

For Mare Gutiola, a builder with three children (Gabriel, 7, Matthew, 4, and Noah, 2), things are pretty simple. They don't have video games in the house.

"As much as possible, we're trying not to expose them to those PC games, consoles, personal gaming units, because we feel that it may lead to our kids just playing those all day. To make up for it, we try to play varied board games—the games from the Creation guys are good, those Montessori—so that we get to all interact and share the experience. Also, for Lego sets. Kinds if they are their session play with, say their Nintendo DS, they wants, ask mainly to borrow and return it when asked. So when ng or begging to get these consoles. Well, for now, Sometimes I think they feel a lot left out, but they find other things to do for fun like read, or draw, or have picnics in our lawn, or bike."

Too young to surf

Mark Christian Patiño, a public relations director with one son (Noah, 3, has a lot of gadgets at home. They have two laptops, one personal computer, two toy laptops, an Xbox 360, Playstation 2 and PSP.

Noah gets to play the PSP or Xbox 360—but only if he asks for permission and only after he does his homework. His parents only let him play kid-friendly games.

On weekends, he plays for two to three hours "depending if he was a good boy that week." It also depends on how long his parents are available to supervise. He isn't allowed to play on weekdays.

Mark wishes Noah would spend more time on other things. "We want him to read more, take care of chores, play with other kids, bond with me and his mom over loads of delicious Dobora layer cream."

Like Nikka, Mark sees video games as an incentive. "It's working, so far."

Mark, an avid video gamer as well, says: "I grew up with Super Nintendo, Sega Dreamcast and, fine, Atari, too, and I turned out pretty well. I think, but, seriously, adult supervision is key. Parents must limit playing hours and choose which games can be played. Kids shouldn't be allowed to be in front of the computer or a video game the entire day as that contributes to social ineptitude."

"You can use your computer as a teaching aid, or video games to bond with kids on weekends, but it must be done in moderation. Two to three hours should be enough. After all, there must be better ways to spend happy time with your kids. Like reading a book together, or going to Ark River."

Mark says Noah's pediatrician discourages him to play video games for hours before bedtime.

"We noticed Noah's sleep is disturbed, and, sometimes, he wakes up crying. So we've limited his playing time. Three days, it's his reward for doing well in school or for helping out with chores, or plainly, being obedient. On the other hand, our doctor also says video games per se aren't bad—action-packed games can stimulate the part of the brain that involves vision and movement."

Only for homework

Ruby Gan, an entrepreneur, has two college-age kids—Marvin, 20, and Ralph, 18. They have three computers at home and a Nintendo Wii. On weekdays, her sons are only allowed to use the computer for homework. On weekends, she gives them the freedom to use their computers all they want.

She said, "Sometimes, they need to continue working on their homework or projects. After that, I allow them to play some computer games."

"They all wake up late on weekends and then we either do the groceries together, have blast, watch a movie, or eat—what's better than with lil-ite time in front of the computer," she adds. "Time to rest, schedules of activities on weekends, time spent playing is quite limited, and I'm happy about that."

During school breaks, she becomes a bit more lenient. "I would allow them to play the Wii game sounds until they are finished and that's it for the day."

Her kids know her stand about video games. "They have already accepted that. I am not really a big fan of computer/video games." She wishes they would spend more time reading.

Ruby says parents need to balance work and play. "And when I say play, I mean both indoor and outdoor activities. I really push them to do physical activities. I think it will be easier to convince your kids if you model it, too. Both my sons may be big, but the weight and size are essential in the sports they're involved in...private lifting for Marvin, and judo for Raphael."

Drawing boundaries

Angela Santiago, a logistics rep, has two kids—Jessie, 11, and Chloe, 5.

They have two computers at home, plus Xbox, the wonderbox, that allows them over the air to download games. They set an hour for video games. On weekends, she allows them to use the computer and play video games for five hours.

She doesn't feel that Jessie and Chloe spend too much time on the computer or playing video games. "They're engaged in arts or activities like sports."

She keeps track of what her kids do online. "Chloe only plays on coggie.com and Disney Juniors, on the other hand, spends a big chunk of time on Facebook and Myspace."

The kids have no problem with her rules on computers and video games. "They're cool. No need to roll their eyes to get off the computer."

Angela believes it's important to draw boundaries. "Be lenient when you need to and let them do their own thing, but they need to know that there are limitations."

The last option

Aurore De Dramps, a hotel consultant with three kids (Renzo, 12, Ilea, 8, and Belle, 7) thinks it's important to make sure your kids have other

HOW OTHER D-

NIKKA Abes

RUBY Gan

A son's first love will always be his mother

IT'S THE END OF THE WEEK AND HE looks forward to the move. When he sees me, his eyes light up and he breaks into a smile. When I sometimes forget that it's not special day, he does not hesitate to show his disappointment and my heart melts. That's one of the things I love about him—he wears his heart on his sleeve.

Wednesdays are dedicated date days to me and my 11-year-old son.

We began the practice when he turned 10. Now that he is an adolescent, I want him to know the proper way of treating a girl and of showing affection and one-on-one bonding time. When I pick him up from school, he has the afternoon all planned out. Usually it's my choice and we go to the bookstore, or a movie. Over the meal, he tells me about his day and the joys and pains of being in the fifth grade, and almost anything under the sun. He smiles when I ask him about his crushes, but doesn't even say who they are. "That's top secret."

A mother will always be a son's first love. Dr. William Pollack, the director of the Centers for Men and Young Men, and director for continuing education at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts, is an internationally recognized authority on boys and men. He is author of the 1998 bestseller "Real Boys' Voices."

Pollack says boys **treat their first and realest** lessons on love from their mothers. "Far from making boys weaker, the love of a mother can and does actually make boys stronger, emotionally and psychologically. Far from making boys dependent, the base of safety a loving mother can create—a connection that her son can rely on all his life—provides a bow with the courage to explore the outside world. But most important, he frees making a boy act in 'girl-like' ways, a loving mother actually plays an integral role in helping a boy develop his masculinity."

"Far from making boys weaker, the love of a mother can and does actually make boys stronger, emotionally and psychologically"

There is certainly much wisdom in the pieces of advice a high school teacher of mine once gave our freshman class... "If you want to know how your husband will be like at his husband, watch how he treats his own father."

How a young man navigates the emotional landscape of love and lust later on has a lot to do with how his mama raised him. Want to find out if he's a mama's boy? Spend time with his mother and him and watch the dynamics. Watch out, too, if he feels ambivalent, who is the light of the house, one who is a pushover or 'seems' emotionally unavailable.

"In actuality, boys are often sensitive, caring, sad, loving, or frightened—but vulnerable by the 'Boy Code'—hiding these qualities and emotions behind a stolid exterior," Pollack explains. In "Real Boys' Voices," dozens of boys talk to Pollack about bullies and manhood, alcohol and substance, friendship and violence, abuse and addiction. He says that in a "blame-free zone" they speak for themselves, and for thousands of other boys whose voices are still silenced.

What then can a mother like myself do to help me son grow up into a healthy and emotionally strong pre-teen to young man?

On the parenting.com website, Pollack explains that "parents need to feel just as close to their sons as to their daughters" and are give us to control pressures to prematurely push boys away. Some others boys enter the adolescent "boys-in-the-stone" years, mothers dont have to disconnect emotionally, he says. "If the middle-aged crowd is a cognitive—let it stretch and shrink, but never be cut."

Accept boys

It's equally important to truly accept boys' rough-and-tumble side as well, Pollack says, and to show we love them for them, to let him up right when they're seized upon.

Pollack says parents need to relate to a different approach to boys. "We see boys in 'crisis'—and they know it." He says if parents are able to provide a drama-free zone at home where their emotions and sensitivity are accepted, they will be more responsive. In other words, home must literally be a safe harbor where our sons can "duck" safely after taking through what can sometimes be turbulent seas at school.

In the article "Teen Care: Promoting Individuation Not Separation," Pollack stresses: "An important role of keeping but no matter the age or brutal or unfair."

"It's time to put aside fruitless arguments about what constitutes a 'real' family and to focus on the ties that bind within healthy families of all types: human connectedness.

"What adolescents need the most—whether they are gifts or burden—is knowing that they have meaningful connections not only with their peers, but also, and especially, with their parents or other family members."

So once it is a dangerous myth to think adolescents need or want to separate from their families. "Our children desperately need their parents, family and extended family to be there for them, to stand firm, set them flexibility, and form a living wall of love that they can lean on—and bounce off—against. It's not separation, but individuation—becoming more mature in the context of loving relationships—that healthy adolescence is all about."

It is merely and world fraught with single-parent households, Pollack gives this reassurance: Don't compare yourself for not being a perfect parent, but never give up. Home-free environment at home are good for parent and child. Worry less about little and focus on shared loyalty and joy with your family. Know that you and your child will both need to love.

"Don't go at it alone. That's exactly when your kids are getting stuck. Whether you're a traditional mother-father pair or a single parent, or one of the myriad new family constellations, reach out to neighbors, clergy, parents and schools. Mentors from outside the immediate family are important for you and your children."

E-mail the author at catholicdad@gmail.com

How other . . .

From page C3

or activities to keep them busy.

"Have regular music running schedules, give my kids the discipline they need, at home, computer use happens only when my kids don't have anything else to do. As long as they have other things—school work, board games whatever play in friendly family time long as—computer is the last option."

On weekdays Beatty, Ben and Belle spend a maximum time of two hours on the computer. That includes homework and games. On weekends they are allowed to play with the computer and with video games for about four to five hours.

Andre believes monitoring is key. "When they're not monitored, they can spend too much time on the computer. I monitor my kids, especially on weekdays, and they also have other activities to spend their time on."

Sticking to the rules

Azeal Eppstein, fashion stylist, blogger (www.mommyprenuer.com) and online shop owner (http://cartoon.multiply.com), doesn't feel that her daughter, 13, 9-year-old Adrianna, spends too much time on the computer and on video games.

Arianna has Wii, Nintendo DS and her own laptop. She spends two to three hours a day on the computer on weekdays. "That includes homework research, online games and chatting with friends.

Jenni lets Arianna use the computer for three to five hours on weekends. "She divides various browser minutes, phenomenal."

Jenni has tips for parents who want to control their kids' use of the computer. "Time, stick to your rules. Two, enforce time limits. Give advance heads up when it's the last ten minutes, then the last five minutes, so it gives them enough time to wrap their online games, say bye to their friends online, etc. Three, be consistent limits. Set an agreed with your child's web habits and ask them to show you their favorite sites. Four, check their computer's history and make sure they are aware that they are not supposed to erase the history. Let them know you will be checking the sites they go to."

ELEVEN MONTHS A YEAR HE'S A PAGEBOY.
THIS FEBRUARY HE'S CUPID.

SPEND IT IN THE AIR THIS MONTH AT THE PENINSULA. OUR CONCIERGE AND CLIERGE STAFF IS A BIG SEASON WHY. TRYSTE TO WHATEVER FOR HOME TO MAKE THIS YOUR MOST ROMANTIC VALENTINE'S EVER. AND OF COURSE THIS SPECIAL ROOM RATES AND WITH ARRAY OF STRONG CHOICES ARE SURE TO PLEASE HIS AND YOUR PARTICULAR. PLUS YOU CAN GET OUR OWN UNIQUE ORANGE VALENTINE PACKAGE UNTIL FEBRUARY 28. BE WOOED OUT IN A CHAMPAGNE TO THE OFFICE-OPENED FERRARI BOUTIQUE IN GREENBELT 1. ENJOY A SUMPTUOUS CONTEMPORARY BREAKFAST AND PRIVATE SHOPPING ALL BEFORE THE STORE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC. REMEMBER A ROOM AT THE PENINSULA MAKES NOW AND EVERY AN UNFORGETTABLE VALENTINE'S.

THE PENINSULA
MANILA

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Do-it-yourself

How to create Chinese New Year tablescape

D.I.Y.

CHINESE NEW YEAR or Spring Festival celebrations are always a feast for the senses, marked with traditional practices, fireworks, brightly colored lights, special meals with family and friends.

1. Create a festive table setting by using a bright palette of red and gold, the Chinese wealth color for prosperity and luck. The

HOW TO CREATE (2)

Celebrate the Chinese New Year at the New SM City Fairview Annex

There's only one place to be this Chinese New Year! SM City Fairview and its newly-opened Annex welcomes shoppers eager for anything, from fun family moments to private shopping time.

SM City Fairview is already one of the most popular shopping and leisure destinations in north Metro Manila. But with the new SM City Fairview Annex, with almost 100 high-end shops, specialty restaurants, and essential services, mall-goers from Quezon City and other neighboring areas will discover even more reasons to enjoy their shopping experience.

Within the mall's expanded and elegant interiors, fashion stores offer trendy finds for the savvy shopper. After a day of shopping, relax at any of our cafes and restaurants, including Sbarro at Pedro Dávila. SM City Fairview's new al fresco dining area. The Annex is also home to service-oriented stores, as well as a 6,000 square meter mall center.

Chinese New Year on February 24 is only the perfect time to visit SM City Fairview Annex and enjoy all that it has to offer. Savor a sumptuous dinner with your family. Spend a fun-filled day with your friends. What's more, you can catch these exciting events to welcome the Year of the Tiger:

Chinese Pagoda Photo Option, Feb 8-21

Experience the richness of China as beautiful pagodas serve as backdrops throughout the celebration. Then, check out what 2012 has in store for you via our auto-freezer wall display.

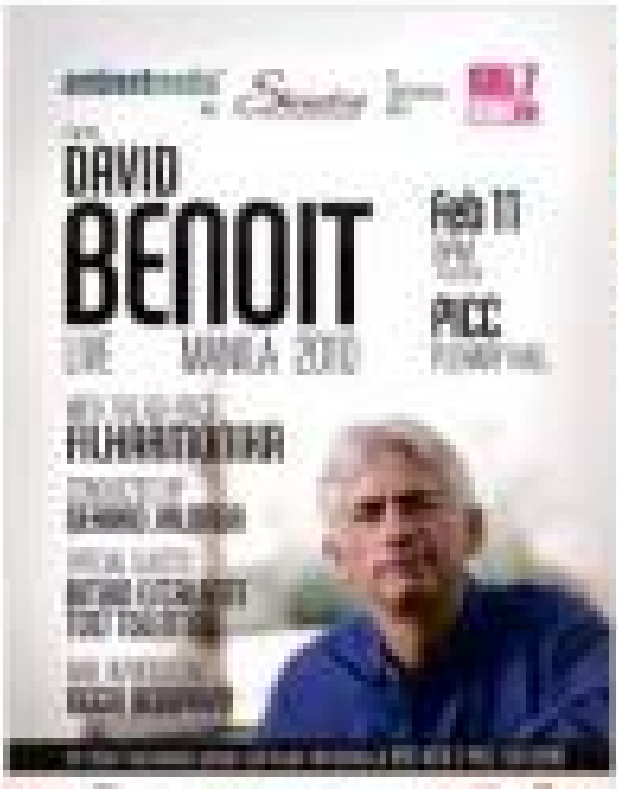
Chinese Lion and Dragon Dance, Feb 14, 10 am

The entire mall celebrates Chinese New Year with loud drumbeats and a grand Chinese Lion and Dragon dance.

So this February 14, Chinese New Year, bring the entire family to SM City Fairview Annex and look forward to a whole year of great finds and lucky treats!

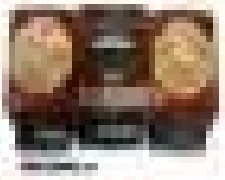
SM city fairview

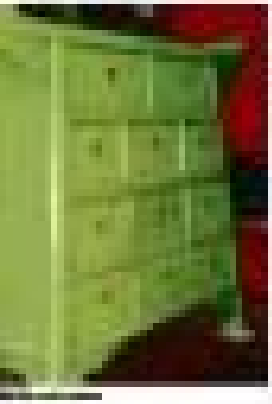
How to create Chinese New Year tablescape

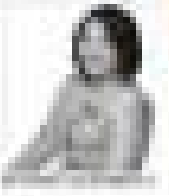


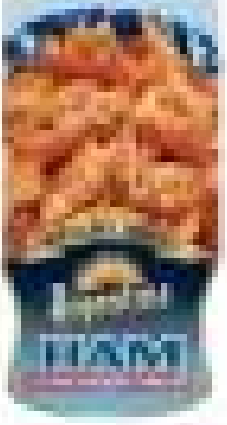
Ornate Chinese furnish

Style and Sound that Suits You








HAM

New pots and pans make loving cooking for Valentine

HAIRLOSS S.O.S

My falling hair is getting worse!

Yes, you can stop falling hair – only at Svenson.

Svenson, the leading hairloss and scalp centre in the Philippines, offers Ultra Hair Reinforcer. It deeply nourishes the roots, controls hair fall and stimulates hair growth. Hair becomes thicker, shinier and more lush. No more hairloss. No more worries!

Say goodbye to gimmick shampoos and temporary salon remedies. Get visible, lasting results – guaranteed. Only at Svenson! Call now for a FREE private consultation.

Svenson call 892-HAIR (4247)

TEFAL'S RED COLOR collection introduces a range of pots and pans for making hearty meals for loved ones. Thanks to a patented innovation, the ceramic minerals' hard base increases the performance of non-stick properties in terms of resistance to scratches and abrasion. It acts like an armor protecting the aluminium substrate and prevents any cooking aggression from hurting the aluminium.

Tefal's Red Color Collection pots and pans are made of aluminium bodies for enhanced durability and long usage, with different stylish designs to choose from: Perfect Master Mineral, Elegance Brick, Temps Flame Red (red flame design) and Resistance Aroma Red (with chic black lines over red design). The collection is ideal for easy clean and healthy cooking.

TEFAL'S Red Color Collection of pots and pans

Tefal is exclusively distributed nationwide by Boston's Marketing Corporation and available in leading department store nationwide.

UST High School holds grand alumni homecoming

The alumni of the University of Santo Tomas High School will hold their grand alumni homecoming on Feb. 20. The UST HS GAH is a yearly event, and GAH 2010, in particular, marks the first UST HS GAH of the second decade of the Reinvolvement.

The homecoming, a collaboration of the UST HS Alumni Homecoming (UST HS GAH) and the GAH 2010 Organizing Committee (2010 OrgCom) an event produces and executive producer, respectively, will be held at 4 p.m. onward at Plaza Mayor in front of the UST Main Building, along España, Manila. Actress Lea Valdez and singer Jessa Zaragoza, both members of UST HS Batch '95, and Fiona Wilson of Batch '88 will be the GAH 2010 emcees.

The UST HS GAH 2010 aims to instill in alumni sense of unity and camaraderie, and to serve as a venue for them to reconnect with their alma mater and with each other.

The UST HS GAH 2010 is also a call to action for alumni to help their alma mater in its quest for excellence in education.

For tickets and details, call 731-7031/731-1340/687-1932, text 0928-501-9221/09-15-489-1315, e-mail ustheagah@yahoo.com. Details are available at www.ustheagah.net and on Facebook. Alumni are requested to indicate their full name, batch/year, mobile number and e-mail address when inquiring or reserving.

Valentine concert

Island Cove Hotel and Leisure Park will host a Valentine concert, featuring Nina Diaz, Lizzie Noveda, Randy Santiago, Raymond Lauchengco with special guest Mikki Escobar. The concert will be held at the Supreme Grand Ballroom on Feb. 13 7 p.m. Tickets are available at all TicketNet outlets located at the GM Department Store Customer Service Area, Acacia, Coliseum ticket booths, and Island Cove Hotel and Leisure Park. Call 911-5555/ 810-1616.

Mall activities

At Robinsons Malls, schedule a mid-afternoon rendezvous or dinner date today 3-6 p.m. at any of Robinsons Galleria's restaurants and get a chance to be spotlighted and win Valentine's Day Mobile or Grooming tickets for Feb. 11, 1:30 p.m. at Robinsons Galleria Mezzanine Cinema 5.

On Feb. 14, every P1,000 single receipt from any Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila restaurants on that same day (dine-in/dine-via phone/pick-up from Robinsons Malls Valentine's Photo Booth) Plus.

Whatch: John Fred Calvo performs on Feb. 13, 4-8 p.m. at Robinsons Place Manila and Feb. 14, 4-8 p.m. at Robinsons Galleria.

On Feb. 14, Robinsons Place Manila's Activity Area will also have its own set of movie performances. A Chapter and Love Dance happens on Feb. 12 at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila.

Maya classes

The Maya Kitchen offers classes on Feb. 13, 2-5 p.m. Desserts and Sweets like Mango Ice Box Cake, crème brûlée, apple tart-tartlets, will be featured. Chinese Shrimp in Wine sauce, Sapsi, Abalone are featured on Feb. 20, 1:30-5:30 p.m. The picture includes pork adobo, Chinese Cooking is on Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn classic Chinese dishes like Pork Siu, Roast Chicken a la Peking Duck, Tilok, Chinese Lumpia and Kikiam. Log on to www.themayakitchen.com or mail contactus@themayakitchen.com, call 552-1185.

15th PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL hot air BALLOON FIESTA

EVENT SCHEDULE

DAY 1 FEBRUARY 11, 2010 THURSDAY

DAY 2 FEBRUARY 12, 2010 FRIDAY

DAY 3 FEBRUARY 13, 2010 SATURDAY

DAY 4 FEBRUARY 14, 2010 SUNDAY

www.philballoonfest.net

LIFESTYLE

A Special Report on NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick

The tale of my First Pick coffee

By Paolo Benigno Aguirre IV

Every morning, I take a sip from my cup of coffee and, like many of us, take it for granted. All I know is that it jumpstarts my day and is an essential part of my morning. And for most of us, this is enough mindshare we care to give our coffee.

Coffee. Brew days. Is everywhere. Accessible (and up on it). It's one of the top sellers in your neighborhood sari-sari store, and it's available in restaurants and coffee parlors in almost every corner of this metro. And yet as ubiquitous as coffee is, what do we really know about it?

What we do know is how we want it, when we take it, how many times a day we have it, what sides we like it with. Everyone, seemingly, has got a coffee story, but few seem to know the story of coffee itself.

It's a day to day basis. Filipinos prefer to take instant coffee in their homes and most likely, NESCAFÉ is their choice. The likelihood is that this coffee they're drinking comes from provinces like Cavite, Batangas, Bohol, Bukidnon, South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, Sarangani, Sorsogon and Sarlat, Davao or Bukidnon, among others. Although most of the coffee is sourced locally, the sad reality is that the coffee industry still imports coffee from other countries to meet the growing demands of the Philippine market.

But it wasn't always this way. Once upon a time, the Philippines was a coffee power. About 200 years ago, the Philippines was the fourth largest coffee exporter in the world. There was even a time, around 1880, when the Philippines became the only source of coffee in the world when coffee rust hit the plantations of Brazil, Africa and Java. In fact, it was only in recent history, around 1989, that Philippine coffee production dropped to an all-time low owing to a global surplus of coffee.

Since 1989, Philippine coffee production has never been able to attain its former glory. From a coffee exporting country, we steadily became the coffee importing country that we are today. One can dwell on this for the next glories of the coffee industry, but many industry experts will highlight the potential of coffee in our country instead — we're a country of coffee drinkers in a country suited for the growth of coffee beans.

AFTER UPSKARING is a sad reading about coffee farmers, **Paolo Benigno Aguirre IV** realized how they treat their coffee farms with reverence. He discovered that for the coffee farmers, coffee is not just a source of income, but a product of passion, determination, and dedication.

About coffee beans produced in the Philippines are of the Robusta variety. Coffee connoisseurs debate about which bean is best, but undoubtedly, it is the Robusta bean that is most widely spread in the country.

There's a ready market of coffee drinkers in our country for the entrepreneurs that wish to fill our coffee demand gap. NESCAFÉ, the largest coffee brand in the Philippines, has even set up satellite coffee bean buying stations in 11 provinces that will readily buy over-ripe coffee beans at a set price.

Aside from this, both science and technology are on the Filipinos' side. In most of the major islands in the country, an area exists which is considered for growing coffee beans.

With regard to technology, training is readily available through the Philippine Agricultural and Demonstration Farm (PADF). This institution provides free training to coffee farmers and would-be coffee farmers that want to improve their craft. As coffee is harvested only twice a year, the PADF holds coffee farmers to make better economic use of their land and cultivate the coffee beans for higher yields. In the past 12 years, the PADF has trained around 13,000 farmers.

There are currently 50,000 coffee farmers in the country, with another 100,000 Filipinos reliant on the coffee industry for their livelihood.

The coffee farmers I've spoken to treat their coffee beans and their coffee farms with reverence. For the years I've spoken to and read about, coffee is not just a source of income, but a passion. They tend to their farms with dedication and determination, and this extra care translates through to the coffee we raise every day.

Will all of this knowledge make my coffee taste better? It's doubly not. But certainly, knowing all of these adds a layer of significance to this seemingly part of our mornings. It certainly did for me. The Philippine coffee story is still being written and every time we closely and gingerly take that first sip of coffee in the morning, we become part of this coffee story as well.

It is this coffee story that NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick wants to tell. With the first pick of the coffee bean harvest as its main medium, NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick celebrates the best of what the Filipino coffee farmer has to offer and reminds us of the potential of the coffee-growing country that has yet to be reached. It is a reminder that there is a story behind every cup of coffee and every coffee bean and a promise that one day, this potential will be a reality.

NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick is a limited edition coffee available during the first quarter of the year only. It is made from coffee beans handpicked with care by Filipino farmers during the beginning of the harvest season. The beans are then roasted to a deep, dark color for a unique and intense cup that you'd love to savor.

FOR PAOLO "BAM" Benigno Aguirre IV, there is an enormous potential for the Philippines to become a major coffee producer as its lands are ideal for growing coffee and there is a significantly renewed interest in coffee farming. He also acknowledges that NESCAFÉ, the leading coffee brand, is playing a vital role in developing the coffee industry in the country

Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aguirre IV is a **television host and a celebrity endorsement. He graduated** *summa cum laude* **in Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Engineering. In 2009, he co-founded and is currently the President of the social entrepreneurship, Inc., a social business enterprise that advises entrepreneurs on organizational and** [illegible] **(2011, joined the board of Bags Filipino, Inc., another social business enterprise that helps underprivileged women. He was also named Chairman of the National Youth Commission, the government's main youth policy making arm and was the youngest person in Philippine history to head a government agency. He is also President of the Socio-Civic Organization Philippine Jaycees (2013) Awards Foundation, the country's premier youth award-giving body from 2002-2008. He is also "Boardwalk" participant for several years. Bam always find himself on the youth and was awarded the KBP-OBB's Studio 23. He is currently hosting "Start Up," a show for budding entrepreneurs, currently airing on the ABS-CBN News Channel. He also published his first book, "Young Dashboard Boss," which features 40 young achievers in the region and commissioned by ASEAN.**

Whose coffee are you drinking?

CUSTOM-ROASTED means the coffee beans are roasted to meet specific requirements. Most brands are aware of how coffee farmers produce their beans, but not everyone knows how coffee beans are roasted. Ground, brewed, spray-dried and packed require different roasting levels. Take for example the Double Shot Iced Coffee of NESCAFÉ Classic and Iced Pick.

Read on to find out more.

Creator's gift

The NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick you're drinking may have come from Ubo Mahaling a coffee farmer from Agusan del Norte.

On Monday, the once challenging, now exciting and rewarding a gift from the divine. Monday, who has a coffee farm in Agusan del Norte, says he owes this to none other than his God. He is a born-again Christian and attributes his success to the coffee trees.

"God blesses, showers my trees and fed plant. His coffee tree grows around us everyone is blessed you, God. Thank You. Thank You, God," is the hard lesson he learned. If you think about it, there's nothing ordinary about a coffee farm. It's the grass and the trees of God right there being planted by a seed, being nurtured, growing and having fruits—miraculous," says Monday.

Monday says his spiritual connections with the coffee trees have its origins before elementary day and school. Coffee grows best around the coffee trees under the hot sun. He says it is a fruit-bearing tree that says his trees have its love and his environment.

Harvesting the future

In the NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick you're drinking a product of coffee beans planted and harvested by farmers like Monday.

Coffee farmers and makers Gutierrez Bisky as a process to help the same thing remember coffee farmers. Coffee farmers and makers are also done with efficiency, counting the days until the coffee finally becomes the ripe coffee cherries.

Gutierrez says the early morning sight of coffee cherries is not an "eye-candy" moment for the farmers. It's a sight to behold for the first of the season is a source of wonder, hope and expectation.

For Gutierrez, it's emotionally charged of crops that she gathers. Rather, it's really a harvest of months' labors for him and his brothers. For example, the money earned from his coffee beans is used to help send his children to school.

Planting is all about nurturing and giving birth or husbandry life. It's a life-giving crop, but that's only the first part of a season to celebrate! It's a chance to give life and better opportunities for family, the economy and the community," says Gutierrez in her native Ilocano.

Family legacy

Is this coffee you're drinking a product of the passion and determination of coffee farmers whom you've met?

The answering connection to the land is felt most strongly by second-generation farmers who have been attended. Agusan that has come to be known as the country's coffee capital, grounded his coffee farms in the Agusan Valley, from his parents.

SYMBOLS OF SOLIDARITY: Coffee growers Julie Bisky (in brown shirt) and coffee farmers Ruel Jandalino (in white t-shirt) of the community in Sorsogon del Norte are proudly part of the NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick growers community.

HAPPY HARVEST: Coffee farmer Jovie Lamoste and his loved ones are happy that they are financially giving with their lives because of coffee. Join their coffee farmers in raise the NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick coffee you're enjoying right now.

HARVEST SEASON: Rosie Bel Jandalino became part of Bukidnon coffee farmer Dennis Cadena's family in Sorsogon one afternoon during their traditional harvest season. But Bukidnon could also be the source of the NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick you are brought home.

Rizmine and Greg, also a coffee farmer, are selling nothing less than the best coffee beans from their harvest.

Lamoste's parents are no longer, regarded their lives every given the future of harvesting coffee and coffee farmers' livelihood. In 2006, when the Bisky Coffee Roasting Station in Davao City celebrated its 20th anniversary.

This is why Jovie never left to cast out of coffee and coffee farming from his coffee farmer. If it means more hard work and a longer working time before he could get the revenue it can be harvested.

Ruel Bisky Gutierrez's farmers are kept private in Pinoso in Ubo municipality. His parents never showed and celebrate in coffee there until their children," says Lamoste.

Lamoste helped to be the turning process by various farmers in other areas. Through a community project, roast and grind for consumption. Also they call the coffee farmers and introduce beans out of the good ones. Then implemented family and also coffee, out of the coffee farmers, coffee, coffee. Of course, coffee farmers and making. Lamoste learns there is no shortcut to grow, quality coffee. "Getting only the best coffee beans and only ripe ones that only good coffee can be brewed and consumed, it also helps the community. Agency coffee organizers," he explains.

Community solidarity

The NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick you're drinking is the result of collective and the hands of coffee farmers Julie Bisky and the other members of his community.

In the case of Bukidnon, his loved with his best bro, grandparents and parents. Their coffee community. Bukidnon is the founding president of the Kalubugan Coffee Growers' Association, a coffee farmers' cooperative.

Kalubugan, however, is known says Bukidnon, combining what the coffee farmers in Bukidnon, Kalubugan, Tagbac, Sangay de Oro, Iponan have to offer. They are resilient, the blessings and benefits they get from coffee farming to coming together as a community.

Bukidnon cites as an example the relationship that has developed among the members of their cooperative. In the building coffee trees that brought along the resources of their cooperative. In the building coffee trees that brought along the resources of their cooperative. In the building coffee trees that brought along the resources

Li'l Beanie
Certificate of Adoption

Name:

Personality:

Likes:

Dislikes:

Notes:

Help coffee farmers have
better harvests when you

adopt a Li'l Beanie coffee seedling.

How you can help Filipino farmers online

FOR many Filipinos, a warm cup of good coffee provides one of life's simple yet essential everyday pleasures. Coffee's popularity can be seen in the huge demand for the beverage that ever continues to increase with each passing year-it is, in fact, the nation's most consumed beverage, second only to water.

But before it can make it to our cup, coffee starts in the fields of our coffee farmers, whose families depend on the industry for their livelihood. Starting with the seedlings, the farmers would carefully tend to their until they grow into coffee trees. Thanks to their efforts, we get to enjoy delicious, aromatic cups of coffee at our convenience.

Thousands of Filipino coffee farmers and their families depend on coffee for their livelihood. Nestlé, makers of the country's leading coffee brand, NESCAFÉ, does its part in helping the industry by providing training and technical assistance, selling good planting materials at cost through its modest network of buying stations, and implementing various programs that benefit the farmers.

Now, you too can have the chance to help Filipino coffee farmers with NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick. Every jar you buy has a unique code which you can use to register in this website: www.nescafe.com.ph/lilbeanie. Once the code is entered, you can adopt a virtual coffee seedling known as a "Li'l Beanie". This Li'l Beanie represents an actual coffee seedling that will be given to a local coffee farming community. You will receive periodic updates regarding the status of your virtual coffee seedling. You will also be able to track the growth & development of your coffee seedling until it finally becomes a fully-grown coffee tree ready for harvest.

It's that simple. With NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick, not only do you get to enjoy the goodness of high quality coffee, but you also get to help others in your own little way.

NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick is a limited edition coffee available during the first quarter of the year only. It is also from coffee farms handpicked with care by Filipino farmers during the beginning of the harvest season. The beans are roasted to a deep, dark color for a unique aroma cup that you'd love to savor.

So be part of the harvest of the future and log on now to www.nescafe.com.ph/lilbeanie. Convene more about NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick and this program, please call the Nestlé Consumer Care Hotline (02) 888-3061.

THE COFFEE SEEDLING you've contributed by adopting a Li'l Beanie will be part of the coffee farmers' bountiful harvest of the future.

THOUSANDS OF Filipino coffee farmers and their families depend on coffee for their livelihood. Nestlé, makers of the country's leading coffee brand, **NESCAFÉ**, does its part in helping the coffee industry through various initiatives. Now, you too can be a part of this progress by adopting a Li'l Beanie online, which in turn represents an actual seedling contribution to a local farming community.

Your journey to the coffee farm begins with the Li'l Beanie Code

THERE'S something exciting about NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick this 2016. Did you know that for every jar of NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick that you buy, you will find a unique code recognized at the back, called the Li'l Beanie Code?

THE Li'l Beanie Code allows you to do the following: 1) Adopt a Li'l Beanie and discover the journey that your coffee made-starting as beans from the farm, to their roasting, brewing and spray-drying at the factory, and right into your coffee jar; 2) Get to know the kind Filipino farmers from whose harvests your coffee is sourced; 3) Discover more about how NESCAFÉ is helping improve the livelihood of 30,000 Filipino farmers and their families; and 4) become part of the harvest of the future by making a seedling contribution to a Filipino farmer, and as you learn interesting and fun-filled facts about coffee.

You can do all that by visiting www.nescafe.com.ph, get yourself registered by typing in the unique Li'l Beanie Code on your jar.

Virtual coffee farm

After you register, you may then adopt a Li'l Beanie and plant it in a virtual farm online. You are given an award to name the Li'l Beanie you adopt. You will receive periodic updates through email on the milestones and stages of growth that your Li'l Beanie has achieved.

For every Li'l Beanie you adopt, NESCAFÉ will make a coffee seedling contribution in your name to a coffee farming community. The Li'l Beanie you adopt is actually the online version of your coffee seedling contribution.

Be sure to send quickly, seedlings to be able to produce quality coffee beans. Such coffee beans will be roasted, ground, and freeze-dried into coffee that one can enjoy. The seedlings contributed through the Li'l Beanie website are intended to recommended areas and yield a rich harvest of coffee beans of the highest quality-such a harvest would mean a good income and a better future for Filipino coffee farmers.

THE Li'l BEANIE CODE. It's a simple yet unique code located on your NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick jar that when keyed in at the NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick Website (www.nescafe.com.ph/lilbeanie) you can become a farmer of the future and embark on an exciting journey through the world of coffee.

JOURNEY OF YOUR COFFEE. By scanning the special code on the booklet, you can either discover who among the four farmers harvested your NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick jar or be part of a larger program and see the harvest of the future by adopting your very own Li'l Beanie.

IT BEGINS BY the Code. Being part of NESCAFÉ's initiative and going through an exciting coffee journey is simple. You just have to input this special Li'l Beanie code, which can be found on your NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick jar, or frequent placemats (in Green right).

YOUR VERY OWN Li'l BEANIE. Once you've adopted a Li'l Beanie using the special code, you can name it and then plant it on a virtual coffee farm.

HARVEST OF THE FUTURE. As your adopted Li'l Beanie will make a seedling contribution to a local farming community and, in the years ahead, your become part of the harvest of the future continuity as NESCAFÉ's efforts to support the livelihood of more than 30,000 Filipino coffee farmers.

WATCH YOUR Li'l BEANIE GROW. After planting your Li'l Beanie on the site, you will be sent periodic updates on the milestones of your adopted Li'l Beanie has achieved through email.

Log on now

Log on to www.nescafe.com.ph/lilbeanie and key in the code to learn more about the journey of your coffee and to adopt a Li'l Beanie online. To know more about NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick and this program, please call the Nestlé Consumer Services Hotline 888-3061.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Erwin S. Velarde

Mobile Alert: Text REG ENTERTAINMENT to 4467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

'Sanglaan' wins in French fest anew

AFTER A DOUBLE WIN IN LYONS LAST YEAR, Mike Sergueff's "Sanglaan" won the Golden Antigone from the 16th Visual International Film Festival of Asian Cinema in Monaco on Feb. 2. The award is given by the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris. Cinch "Sanglaan" in the UP Film festival Feb. 10 to 16. — Bayani San Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

Pynocare
• Over 20,000 Filipinas can vouch for Pynocare the "1st safe and effective oral treatment for Pekas!"
• Now a Clinical trial on Filipinas proved that "Pynocare is effective for epidermal melasma (Pekas)"
• "Pynocare proved to be safe and effective"
Just 2 capsules a day for a total 8 weeks.

OPENING THIS WEEK

AARON Eckhart and Jennifer Aniston

Valentine's Day

Directed by: Garry Marshall; stars Julia Roberts, Ashton Kutcher, Bradley Cooper, Hilarie Burton, Jessica Alba, Ashton Kutcher

Ten people break up and make up as they deal with the pressures and expectations of Love Day. Ultan Cioffi's Louise Keller calls it "a perfect date movie with more than thin script appeal ... it's contrived, predictable." Gladeldon.com's Peter Sciretta describes it as "yet another point-by-numbers rom-com."

Love Happens

Directed by: Brandon Camp; stars Aaron Eckhart, Jennifer Aniston, Martin Sheen, Dan Fogler, Judy Greer

LOGAN Lerman

Self-help guru (Eckhart) realizes his weaknesses after falling for a pesky florist (Aniston). New York Times' Stephen Holden thinks it "dawdles along unbearably ... until it erupts in tears." Variety's Robert Koehler: "Excuse me, love story and there's a pretty good movie buried within." Los Angeles Times' Robert Abele: "Superficial romance, director clichéd incapable."

Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief

Directed by: Chris Columbus; stars Logan Lerman... Pierce Brosnan, Uma Thurman, Sean Bean, Rosario Dawson, Kevin Kilner

Boone Gutenski realizes that he has descended from Greek gods and his mom attracts Isaac Bird of lightning ... Orion Cioffi's Andrew L. Urban feels it as "a rote, tribute-laden, by-visual spectacle ... filled with dread, but never backed in it." Ethan Cinch's Lester Rollin agrees: "Hellava ride so annoying."

The Wolfman

Directed by: Joe Johnston; stars Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins, Hugo Weaving, Emily Blunt, Gwen Stefani, Elizabeth Croft

Anderson Del Toro returns to his ancestral home only to discover the dark curse that haunts his family. Mypill.com proclaims "It's just bonkers fun." An MSN Movies reviewer points out: "The first werewolf movie since ... An American Werewolf in London." Thrillercontrolcenter.com asks: "Why does 'The Wolfman' make us nervous? It definitely refuses comparing it has yet been done for a while."

Lloydie not missing Ruffa

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I'M ONLY HUMAN. I'VE DONE THINGS that I'm not proud of," said John Lloyd Cruz, recounts the failures of many celebs reports.

John Lloyd was supposedly sighted, very drunk and unable to get up, in a Makati bar recently. The year ago, it is said rumored published Ruffa Gutierrez posted this on her Twitter account: "Signing Up ... I only fight for someone who is worth it. If not, then goodbye and good riddance."

At the press launch of his latest film, "Miss You Like Crazy," on Wednesday the actor said, "What matters more than making sure the because you can share with, others about them."

In reference to the film's title, John Lloyd was asked whether he had missed anyone so much that it drove him crazy. The actor replied: "I know who everyone is talking about. Me, I still talk a lot, so I can't really say I miss her like crazy."

When he was reminded of the movie, he said, was his bed. "With my right shoulder, I miss it like crazy."

JOHN Lloyd Cruz

But co-star Bea Alonzo and director Cathy Garcia-Molina are in Malaysia for additional scenes. The movie opens on Feb. 24.

John Lloyd and Bea were last seen on-screen in "One More Chance" in 2007. But the two films he made with Sarah Geronimo—"You Changed My Life" (2007) and its sequel "A Very Special Love" (2008)—were the biggest hits.

Nervous

Bea said the record success of Lloydie's pairing with Sarah made her nervous. "I thought, 'Saan na ako dadagan?' But they worked really hard for that," she said. "I asked myself, 'What would the audience possibly want from me without John Lloyd?' Happily, my answer with Sam Milby ('And I Love You So,' in 2009) did well."

How they were felt attracted to each other? Replied John Lloyd: "We value that partnership, so we protect it. When we were making people believe that we're in love (off-cam), even if we're not, that's the end of our team-up."

Bea added: "We don't have emotions on each other just to be offensive on screen. I do find John Lloyd attractive. And we do 'fit pareho' of the women to the country."

"And the remaining 50 percent?" he teased. "Ako 'yong mga gising na in kalokohan," Bea quipped.

Ellen debuts on 'Idol' today

CAN she make the viewers stay tuned?

LOS ANGELES—ELLEN DeGeneres makes her debut on "American Idol" today, choking up the decision on the show's judging panel and auditioning for the biggest TV audience in the United States.

Her selection is expected to boost viewership on the Fox network's aging singing contest, now in its 9th season and facing challenges to its ratings dominance from the rival upstart America's Got Talent.

DeGeneres, 52, takes the seat held by Paula Abdul, who quit last season in a contract renewal dispute.

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OVERHEARD

CHARICE HEMBANGCO, RECOUNTING intimate moments with Quinto Wesley: "We were in her office and I asked what her favorite songs are. Quote saw rejoa 'Crazy for You' of 'Total Eclipse of the Heart,' she started sing! Just-4-fans ... Pumapanoon ako sa office niya after my ary class ... I'll always remember her advice. Keep your feet on the ground even if you're winning awards."

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4 CASE 39
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1 DEAR JOHN
2 DO YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
4 CASE 39

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1 THE BLIND SIDE
2 PAANO NA KAYA
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4 LEGION

DASMARINAS | **STARMILLS**

1 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
2 LEGION
3 PAANO NA KAYA
4 THE BLIND SIDE

1 PAANO NA KAYA
2 DO YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS
3 AMITAH
4 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATED
5 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
6 LEGION

IMUS | **ANGELES**

1 PAANO NA KAYA
2 DO YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
3 DEAR JOHN
4 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

1 DO YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?
2 PAANO NA KAYA
3 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATED
4 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG

TACLOBAN | **DUMAGUETE**

1 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
2 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
3 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL

1 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL
2 THE SPY NEXT DOOR
3 PAANO NA KAYA

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 LEGION
2 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG
3 THE HEREAFTER
4 THE IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS
5 PAANO NA KAYA
6 DARKNESS

1 LEGION
2 PAANO NA KAYA
3 THE IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS
4 GOLDEN NAME
5 THE TOOTH FAIRY
6 DO YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?

GENSAN

1 LEGION
2 THE TOOTH FAIRY
3 UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATED
4 CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT

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1 THE TOOTH FAIRY
2 LEGION
3 PAANO NA KAYA

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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February: 13, 6:00 pm, Yours Truly

AYALA CENTER CEBU
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MARKET! MARKET!
ABOUT: Are ng Senang Ate Festival
February 13, Activity Center

TRIBECA
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Romantic marathon

HBO PRESENTS a Valentine weekend movie marathon, starting with the Julia Roberts-Hugh Grant starrer "Notting Hill" on Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.

"Notting Hill" tells the story of an unassuming British bookseller (Grant, at 50-Mins. who accidentally spills orange juice on one of his customers—who turns out to be American movie heartthrob Anna Scott.

Romance blossoms as the couple deals with the trials and difficulties of their fairy-tale relationship.

Airing on the same day is "Irish and Necessities Infinite Playlist" starring Michael Cera and Kat Dennings at 9 p.m., and "Brighter in Barkerville" with Richard Gere and Diane Lane at 10:40 p.m.

"THE SAUCED Brothers Band"

Mark Ruffalo on Feb. 14 on "Sleepless in Seattle" with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, 12:30 a.m.; "In Good At It Girls" with Halle Hunt and Jack Nicholson, 2 a.m.; "Due to Real Life" with Steve Carell and Juliette Binoche, 3:20 a.m.; and "Addicted To Love" with Matthew Broderick and Meg Ryan, 4:40 a.m.

The movie also airs on HBO HD.

Unkind inventions

Discovery Channel's series "Machines of Malice" looks at mankind's most unkind inventions—machines designed to cause extreme drama.

The series shows how devices like the helmet from "Wheel of Ancient Roma" work.

New episodes on Thursdays at 11 p.m. starting tomorrow, with reruns on Mondays at 2 a.m. and on Fridays at 11 a.m.

Hooked on love

The cast of "Grey's" get "hooked" on love in "The Naked Brothers Band" and "True Jackson VP" on Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. on Nickelodeon.

Animal characters also get to action in the kids' channel with "Animals." "Pet and Sitter" and "Fuch At The Banquet" airing until Feb. 14 at 1 p.m.

Multimedia company a very sore loser

DOES THIS MULTImedia Conspiracy make it a point to gossip about Korean talents?

MBC, owned by Jaebeom Big Bang, regularly showers co-talents with

First, Hyo Min was seriously suffering indigestion on a TV show—which was vehemently denied by Garam Ga-ehun Then, Super Junior was portrayed as an adulterer—no allegation as one in MBC could stand by.

Does IB approve of this?

Bad host

Uptown Boys is a constant source of headache among colleagues.

Aspiring newcomers, 18 is calling the show's MC person is woefully unprepared. The hosts are thinking of firing DJ, who has grown arrogant, too, said a source. Too much, too soon?

Rigodon

Jun Ogie elevated and begins "dirt" project turning simply "I" to "you TIT!"

A source insists that the couple's immediate transfer is impossible because they're under contract until June. Hunger.

According to the grapevine Cheryl Cosimi and Pierre Tallo, formerly of ABS-CBN, have joined TV5's News and Public Affairs team, along with former Newsbreak host Ces Drilon and DJ Ria Atienza. Gains mount with TV5 with 22-year-old Bibo.

Chaos at Maybe Mary

In last Friday's grand finale of the soap "Who Killed Pia," Bianca Mary was played by ABS-CBN president Charo Santos.

What a TV comeback for the TV exec! All of Showbiz, including Boobsie and Tristan showered well-wishes with opinions.

The unspoken quip: "Will SHOW be renamed 'Mama Mary ko!' or 'Mama Mary Imong'?

TV comeback redux

Also making a TV comeback to talent manager and former Smartbrother Gang! sinner Noonie Soriano. He is reportedly taking the seat of the departed Mahmel V. on cut-to ONE 7. Noonie's on a roll. His new band, Malibu Cats, is opening for Chicago on Feb. 16.

Before and after

Esposoh Executive spotted a new look recently. Copy thinks the wig and look were courtesy of friends that TI had made in the beauty industry. TI famously promised three beauty experts on set. But TI is looking more! Again.

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last week's publicity on TV (And why we are twice!) (Yes we missed.)

- Manny Pacquiao on people trying to destroy his marriage.
- Thirsty turnouts picture. Sorry naman ito, na Ellen na ibang-isla. Parang they are trying talaga to emphasize's burning dalawa. What kind of people are these? Anyway! (Ms. Ellen Adarna!)
- What will be the show like?
- How safe is the path for friendship to engage, no offense, darling— girl to girl, long term relationship, very sage advice coming from someone who is also, a talent." (Mind.) • So.

WARNING from Parmen, Judea.

Charming. Sarah and Amanda Seyfried in "Dear John"

Goodbye 'Avatar', Hello 'John'

DEAR JOHN TOPPLED AVATAR FROM THE #1 SPOT.

This weekend, in a surprise upset victory, the new romance saga *Dear John* toppled seven-time champ *Avatar* from the #1 spot at the North American box office powered by young women chasing after romance.

Dear John surged past industry expectations and grossed a gigantic $80.6M opening weekend, beating 3,000 Hearters. (In 95) 13 drama starring Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried averaged a stunning $15,913 per site. Eager to take credit for the remarkable performance were Relativity Media which produced and Sony's Screen Gems unit which handled distribution duties.

Dear John sets record for the following:

- The biggest Memorial Day weekend opening in U.S. motion picture history.
- The biggest opening for a Sony/Screen Gems release.
- The biggest opening for a Nicholas Sparks novel (not counting "The Notebook" and "A Walk to Remember").
- The highest weekend box office for the year ($80 to $100,000,000.00.

Rushes

- Kris Aquino is appreciation about counting Yves Antolin, because of failed past relationships.
- "Eyes say dahilan kung bakit... achieving takot sila, caught in 'his 'n'ng friendly eyes." (That's a very very valid concern, indeed.)
- Julius Babaylangod on taking dating roles as part of her new look and working under a new manager.

"It is about time Ian requires. As we label at you na lang this... Aquino maraming sa ayo along ginawang pasok sa iba sa ito gusto kwan kwan." (From the top, please!)

Rikki Garcia, Phase Guerrero, Ira Ayo, Dondo Gamed

Spend Valentines Day at SM Mall of Asia on Feb 14!

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SM MALL OF ASIA

Ellen

from page 1

"Ellen brings a huge fan base ... but it's the performers people find at the show's heart-to-heart," said Entertainment Weekly's Michael Slezak.

"Most fans could tell you the top dollar loan advertisers, but no audience does her chipped.

Endorsements are only one way for the stars of the current at home. "I know what it's like to be on stage and on screen, so I know what it takes," she told TV news journalist Karla Cueto.

With Cowell having "Idol" in May to launch his own show on Fox in 2011, DeGeneres' success is crucial, said Ryan Blankfield, who runs the Dial Chatter Blog. Reuters

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

AMERICA's SECOND HIGHEST-GROSSING FILM AFTER "AVATAR" (Jan.29-31) 3-Day Opening Weekend

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA JUST GOT DEADLIER

OPENS FEB.17

MEL GIBSON EDGE OF DARKNESS

FROM JAMES BOND DIRECTOR MARTIN CAMPBELL CASINO ROYALE

Twinkle, twinkle, Superstar!

IS NORA AUNOR REALLY running home soon to hold a much-awaited concert?

I asked her daughter Lutbet about it. "From what I know, by the end of Monday middle of the year," the cute "Maskarang" diva said hopefully, matalay-talod."

Twinkle, twinkle, Superstar! Sometimes wonder how you are.

***

I join Michael Jackson distraught, worldwide in seeking justice for the filing of Pop MJ fanatics like me are relieved that his doctor, Conrad Murray, has finally been charged of involuntary manslaughter because he administered lethal dosage of Propofol to MJ.

Hearing might to be punished gravely. If not for his incompetence, MJ would still be alive.

Valentine's Day reminds me of MJ because he would always say, "Love does forever. It's all for love. LOVE." Dating his concepts, when fans would shout, "I love you," MJ would always respond by saying, "I can beat that because I love you more than you."

I was moved to tears when a facebook friend, Arielle Iglesias, sent me a video link (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0mcmHDOKI) of MJ fans who visited MJ's crypt in Forest Lawn Cemetery with 9-day fans offerings.

The group paid its respects to MJ recently. Sibuh I could take the next plane out and join them. I still refuse to believe that my all-time idol is gone.

My kids shout me up by telling me, "Ma, ang kabobohan mo naka-nosebleed. Ikaw kasi pa!"

There's no such thing as MJ overdose for fanatics like me. Hopay Pinatra Day to my idol, who secretly is an entire wannabe in my heart!

***

Could it be true that Coco Martin got so pissed at one of his co-stars in "Bang Tapi's Magkakabaya," so he vowed that his character in the series would be killed? Hopefully, it's just an out-burst, the show would not be as engaging without him.

As a naughty colleague puts it, "Mas dapat nangagalit sa show at hindi si Coco. Pagmumultuhin na lang ng viewers ang acting ng mga sa susunod at natanggal sila sa kaw lang tapa sa TV, eto ang totoo!"

It's a must to compare and contrast. Love team versus exes, who among the ones should go?

***

Could it be true that Jinnaro Ti-laman of a singer Radha Crystal Jose for the real score for an early.

He recently tweeted he's been single for a year after splitting up with Popo Fernandez. Hmmm, one singer to another? Is Jose just love-less but not "love-less"?

***

Would Dennis Trillo rather have yours and money without love or love without power and money? "I would choose love without power," replies Dennis, who is featured in "Sine Novela: Pinoyako Hanggang Sa Isa Lamak." "You can never be happy in life without love."

So Vilma plans of the lone star to him? That's hard to believe because hygiene of girls would not tolerate "gamong-amo sa buok" just to have solace with Senior.

***

Is Vanna Babida celebrity girl in real life? "Not really," says the star of ABC Entertainment's "Meet The Barbers," which premieres tonight over on CMA 7 after the Korean drama "Queen Seon Deok." "But I know how much dad loves his kids so quite a few unusual acts."

It is rare that she and Mark Barrios are just hanging their tsinelas as actors? "We are not hiding anything. My mom told me it's here if my BF would also be my best friend. And that it's a guy really loves me, he will wait for me."

When it comes to Mr. Right, it's either a training pants or training bra only.

E-mail asanangbalitang@yahoo.com

DID YOU KNOW...

'Dear John' bumps 'Avatar'

LOS ANGELES—A science fiction love story has given way to an old-fashioned romance at the box office, leaving up typically slow times at theaters over the pre-Valentine weekend.

Released by Sony's Screen Gems banner, "Dear John" debuted at the No. 1 movie with $30.4 million, knocking off "Avatar" after seven weekends in first place around. Aiming to strike romantic Sunday.

"Avatar" slipped to No. 2 with $23.6 million, raising its domestic total to $638.1 million. It's second by James Cameron, 20th Century Fox's "Avatar" surpassed his own "Titanic," which had held the domestic revenue record at $600.8 million. AP

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A-LUPIN — By JOSE ABRERA

PUGAD BAWOY — By PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOKSINGTS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — By STEVEN PABALINAS

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

TALOOK — By HAIRA COLL

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

KING MACHINE — By HAIRA ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19). The month ahead is an ideal time for you to concentrate even more on the future. Discuss your hopes and dreams with others. Their feedback will help you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). In the month ahead, make plans for your professional life. This time is a good time to join the table and think of studies that can help you in your career or in your life in general.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Grab every chance for association to be closely working this time months. You're eager to learn. This also is a good time to travel. Consolidate your ideas.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). Talk to others, especially partners, about shared property and everything you hold jointly with others. You might be influenced by someone new — in one sense.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). Today, Mercury moves directly opposite your sign for the next month, making this a wonderful time for you to improve close relationships with partners and close friends. Try it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). It is the month ahead, your concerning the future of mental stuff. Your attention to detail and your powers of concentration are excellent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). You have plenty to and possibilities this month. Don't be afraid to express your feelings and ideas. Reach out, and be socializing games will appeal to you as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Discussions about loans and family money will echo during the next few weeks. This also is a good time to settle issues in family relationships. Spoke to users at home as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). The next couple days is exceptionally! Short trips, conversations with others (especially siblings) and the media are highlighted. Concentrate reading, writing and studying today you inspiring!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Now your attention turns to whatever you value in life, especially money. Look how and your possessions. Trust your moneymaking ideas. You might overcome or boost your earnings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Today, Mercury moves into your sign to stay for the next four weeks. This makes you talkative and eager to communicate with everyone. You've got something to say!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). Your ability to easily switch to casually, or to avoid using or talking to others is excellent this long the next month. Try to accomplish as much as possible.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answers in tomorrow's paper

5	8	9	7	4	3	1	6	2
4	7	1	6	9	2	5	3	8
6	3	2	1	8	5	9	4	7
7	1	4	8	2	6	3	5	9
9	5	6	3	7	1	4	2	8
3	2	8	5	1	4	6	7	9
2	9	5	4	6	8	7	1	3
8	6	7	2	3	9	5	8	1
1	4	3	9	5	7	8	9	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Lagos

		1	9	6	2			
			1			5		
4		9					6	
2	9				6			3
	8						7	
7	6	5						1
3	5		2				9	
9				3	5	4		
			6	9				

Difficulty Level ★★★

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